Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 144 | WEDNESDAY JUNE 17, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

With the pandemic alert now at Phase 6, do you practice what DPH recommends to avoid the flu?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of June 16, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Life Award

Michael Douglas will step into his father's shoes when he receives the 37th AFI Life Achievement Award.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Tinian High School principal retires. **PAGE 2**

Discrepancy in salaries demoralizing local nurses. **PAGE 5**

No official was held accountable after report on dialysis center

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two years had passed since the U.S. Office of Inspector General issued an evaluation report on the now $22 million dialysis center, but not one former or current government official involved in the project has been held accountable for the deficient evaluation of proposals, deficient design contracts, inadequate cost analysis, poor contract negotiations and other serious violations of procurement rules and laws.

SPECIAL REPORT

So far, the Fitial administration has filed a $10 million lawsuit against the Texas-based Leo A. Daly Co. for what it says is the

See NO on Page 4

$44M OK'd for CNMI public schools

PSS spending per child to go up from $2.6K to $4K

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The average amount the CNMI government spends on each child in public schools will soon increase, following the go-signal for the release of $44.4 million in stimulus funds for the Public School System.

The money, which will come from the state fiscal stabilization fund, is the CNMI's share in the $268 million provided by the American

See $44M on Page 4

CAMPFIRE CHAT HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Five returning veterans of the decisive Battle of Saipan from June 15, 1944 to July 9, 1944 share their personal experiences and thoughts on World War II, as well as their take on the mysterious disappearance of famed aviator Amelia Earhart, around a campfire at the Pacific Islands Club's yellow beach in San Antonio on Monday night. From left, James Golden, Marven Avilla, Lyman Franklin, Ken Stinson, and Joe Olivera. They are also set to visit Tinian today as part of the 65th commemoration of the Marianas campaign during the war.

300 ft. of copper wire stolen from Plumeria

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The closed Plumeria Resort in Achugao was burglarized Monday and about 300 feet of copper wire worth about $10,000 to $20,000 was stolen.

Acting on a tip about the burglary, *Saipan Tribune* checked Plumeria Resort yesterday afternoon and chanced upon some workers of Pacific Quality Builder conducting welding work on the exit door of the engineering department on the ground floor.

Saipan Tribune learned that a person who has been assigned to keep an eye on the building discovered the burglary on Monday.

See 300 FT. on Page 4

Shell raises gas prices by 10 cents

4 price hikes this year equal 55 cents price spike

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shell Marianas yesterday raised the pump prices of its regular, premium and diesel fuel by 10 cents a gallon, barely two weeks after a 15-cent a gallon hike.

This is the fourth time that the pump prices of gasoline products on Saipan increased this year.

This means that Saipan motorists are now paying 55 cents more than what they were paying before the year's first price change in February.

See SHELL on Page 4

Local

Tinian High School principal retires

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian High School principal Florine Hofschneider has retired from the Public School System, a day after being relieved from her post in the wake of complaints filed by six students whom she had failed.

According to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, Hofschneider had wanted to retire from service since December last year but was asked to stay on by the PSS management.

Sablan said the Tinian High principal reiterated her desire to retire and, this time, her request was granted and a replacement was named for her position on Monday.

"It is just so unfortunate that the situation of students failing to meet the graduation requirements from Tinian High School got caught up in the midst of Ms. Florine Hofschneider's earlier decision to retire from CNMI-PSS," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Sablan said she was the one who requested Hofschneider to stay on until end of the school year to ensure a smooth transition during the summer period.

Julian Hofschneider was named acting principal of Tinian High on Monday.

Sablan said Julian Hofschneider's selection was in consultation and at the recommendation of the previous principal.

"[Florine Hofschneider] was the one who recommended him as her replacement…the reason we designated Mr. Julian Hofschneider," she said.

Sablan said that Florine Hofschneider was earlier asked to stay on because of the school's accreditation visits and other plans the principal had begun at the school year.

It was in a May 30 teleconference with the principal that her retirement plans was discussed, according to the COE.

"That was the time she reaffirmed her decision to retire from PSS," the commissioner told *Saipan Tribune.*

It was earlier reported that, after her relief on Monday as Tinian High principal, Florine Hofschneider will be assigned to the PSS central office.

Sablan confirmed the meeting she had with six students Monday where they discussed the graduation requirements.

In deciding for the six senior students, the commissioner emphasized that the system did not change the graduation requirements or standards to make them pass.

"We didn't change the requirements for them…we're just making sure they fulfill those requirements," she said.

Sablan commended Florine Hofschneider for the good works she has done with the school and students.

Fund to deny WCC coverage to delinquent employers

By MONETH A. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has warned government employers that delinquent payments to the Worker's Compensation Commission would mean a denial of insurance coverage for any government employee who is injured on the job.

Fund administrator Mark Aguon told department heads in a memorandum yesterday that the failure of the government to remit its legally obligated amount to the commission has caused a lapse in WCC coverage for employees.

Aguon disclosed that WCC records indicate that no government payments have been remitted to the government employee's self-insurance fund, or the special disability fund.

This failure to pay, he said, triggers the application of the penalties and interest as mandated by law.

According to the law's provision, any employer or carrier who fails to remit or make required payments into the special disability fund or the self-insurance fund shall be assessed a 10-percent penalty monthly or a fraction thereof, or the amount unpaid, not to exceed 50 percent of the total plus 12-percent per annum, interest.

Aguon said that if a government agency with over 200 employees has elected to be self-insured, there is a duty to pay into the special disability fund—an amount equal to 1 percent of the total salaries paid not exceeding $1,500 for each employer.

As of March 2009, there were seven government agencies with over 200 employees and 30 government employees with less than 200 employees that are obliged to obtain WCC policy coverage.

"Currently, no payments have been received nor policies filed with the WCC," Aguon disclosed.

The Fund administrator said the failure to make the required payments also forces the private industry to shoulder the coverage and acts as an indirect tax on these private employers and carriers.

"Prompt payment may prospectively remedy this situation, yet does not remove the coverage gap which exists for any current non-payment of this legal obligation," Aguon's memorandum stated.

Besides taxing the private industry, the failure to remit the appropriate obligations to WCC would also mean denial for any government employees who have been injured on the job, according to Aguon.

Power of RED
club red
NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
Your New Favorite Color!
Receive special benefits like discounted pricing, exclusive offers and official updates when using your CLUB RED card. Be the first to know about special "In-house" offers on phones, accessories and other great deals. Visit your nearest DOCOMO PACIFIC location or call 483-CARE for more details.
Present your Club Red card and receive a 25% Discount on cellular accessories at any DOCOMO PACIFIC store locations.
club red
NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com | Typhoon-Proven
Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan

U.S. & CNMI IMMIGRATION LAW

Bruce L. Mailman & Maya B. Kara

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

Call for Appointment

(670) 233-0081

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl. Derence Jack Rd.,
Garapan, Saipan

BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

House panel questions SHEFA's $3.2M disbursement

The House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare chaired by Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) questioned yesterday the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance's $3.2 million year-to-date disbursement, which already exceeds its annual budget of $3 million, with three more months to go before the end of the current fiscal year.

"They've already disbursed $3.2 million when they're only appropriated $3 million. They're saying they're getting the money from untapped funds in previous years but we want to know for sure," Torres said in an interview.

The committee is also concerned that SHEFA, which was created in 2004, may not be tracking the graduates who are supposed to be working in the CNMI for at least a year in exchange for receiving scholarship, Torres said.

The committee, however, had to postpone its meeting with SHEFA officials yesterday because the latter asked for more time to present its finances and other information asked by the legislative panel.

Torres said the meeting has been reset for June 30 at 9:30am.

Among other things, SHEFA is being asked to present data on the number of scholarship applications denied and approved; financial status updates; and changes made to enhance the SHEFA program.

But Torres said SHEFA also has some concerns on the recently enacted Saipan Local Law 16-8, which increased the scope of financial aid recipients to include those without a high school diploma or its equivalent who have enrolled in a trade-type institution like the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta (Cov-Saipan) recently pre-filed House Local Bill 16-36 to authorize SHEFA scholarship also for nursing or medical students.

Over 800 students from Saipan have been awarded financial assistance to pursue postsecondary education on island and on the U.S. mainland under the SHEFA program. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

New trial today of ex-estate administrator

A new trial was set for today in federal court in a money laundering case filed against former estate administrator Luis Kaipat Pelisamen.

A check with the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday afternoon showed no order for the cancellation or postponement of the jury trial.

The jury selection was set for today at 9am. After the jury selection, jury instruction usually follows, then opening arguments by the prosecution and defense counsel.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler is prosecuting the case, while attorney Douglas Cushnie is defending Pelisamen.

Pelisamen and fugitive lawyer Joseph A. Arriola are facing charges of wire fraud and money laundering. Last month, a hung jury prompted the court to declare a mistrial in the case against Pelisamen.

Then Superior Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama kicked out Pelisamen and Arriola from the Kaipat estate after finding that some estate money were missing.

According to the indictment, Arriola and Pelisamen issued 66 checks amounting to $219,000 to themselves. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Are you kidding me?

$77.00

For a complete Pair of Glasses?

No Joke!
at Marianas Eye Institute

- Select Frames & Prescriptions
- One-year warranty
- $127.00 for Progresive "no-line" bifocals

235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan
www.MarianasEye.com
* Shave and haircut not included.

Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"
Most Insurance Accepted
Walk-ins welcome

TOUR 2009

Munich, Berlin, Frankfurt-Germany; Prague-Czech Republic; Budapest-Hungary; Krakow, Wroclaw-Poland

SEPTEMBER 4-18, 2009

$3,295.00
Twin sharing/per person

HURRY UP! LIMITED SLOT AVAILABLE.

Includes
- Roundtrip Economy Class airfare Manila-Dubai-Munich via Emirates Airlines and Berlin-Frankfurt-Manila via Lufthansa then Dubai-Manila via Emirates Airlines.
- Breakfast and dinners throughout the tour except lunches dinner in Manila
- All hotel accomodations at 3-4 star hotels
- All tours mentioned with English Speaking guides
- Private long distance coach throughout Europe
- Transfer from airport to hotel and vice versa

Some restrictions apply.

For more information please call your travel agents, Lisa and Jie at (670) 235-3708 to 10 or e-mail us at customerservice@centurytravelagency.com
www.centurytravelagency.com

Century Travel AGENCY, INC.
A TanHoldings Company
Going the Extra Mile to Serve You!
Ground Floor CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, PMB 193 Box 10000 PPP, Saipan MP 96950

Live the Fiesta Way!

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan

Introduces

FIESTA CAKES FOR ALL OCCASIONS..

For orders and inquiries,
please call 234-7171 ext 1547 or 1548

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

House committee sets hearings for 3 bills

The House Standing Committee on Health, Education & Welfare will conduct public hearings on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan to receive testimony for three bills during the week of June 23.

The bills to be discussed are House Bill No. 16-072, "To create a Visitation Right for Grandparents, and for other purposes;" House Bill No. 16-173, HD1 "Medical Consent Act of 2008;" and House Bill No. 16-232, HS1 "To amend 3 CMC § 4437 to remove employer's medical obligations on nonresident workers regarding pregnancies; and for other purposes."

The first public hearing will take place on June 23 at 10am in the House chamber at the Legislature on Capital Hill, Saipan. The second public hearing will take place on June 23 at 6pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan.

The third public hearing will take place on Tinian on June 24 at 6pm at Tinian Elementary School. The final public hearing will be on Rota on June 26 at 6pm at the Rota Round House.

Copy of the legislation may be obtained from the CNMI Legislature in Capital Hill at the office of Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres or the House clerk, or may be downloaded at cnmileg.gov.mp.

Oral testimony will be received during the public hearings.

Written testimony may be submitted prior to the public hearing via delivery to Torres's office at the Legislature, via e-mail to rep.rtorres@gmail.com, or via regular mail to P.O. Box 500586, Saipan, MP 96950.

For additional information, contact Torres at 664-8923. ***(PR)***

$44M

From Page 1

Reinvestment and Recovery Act to outlying areas.

The U.S. Department of Education finally approved the release of the funds after months of delay. The department first announced in April the distribution of stabilization funds for the states but delayed making its decision for the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, in a statement issued yesterday, said the Education Department decided to give more dollars per-capita to the CNMI than the States. He described the formula used in computing the allocation as "fair and objective" because it was partly based on total population and the number of students.

If the entire $44.4 million is used for education, Sablan said this will mean a per child allocation of about $4,000 per student in public schools.

He said PSS is the only entity among the four insular areas that is not considered "high-risk" due to the PSS management's and Board of Education's financial management capabilities.

He said PSS and the Board of Education have already put together a complete proposal based on guidelines the department gave to states and territories.

"Department officials say that PSS is in a strong position to get their application completed and approved quickly," he said, adding that the money could arrive as early as Aug. 1.

The $44.4 million stabilization fund will be subject to unprecedented and particularly stringent accountability and transparency standards. It is for this reason that the CNMI-PSS is expected to have a credible financial management system for the funds, Sablan said.

In addition to the state fiscal stabilization funds, Sablan said the CNMI-PSS has already been awarded $3.3 million in elementary and secondary education and other formula grants from the ARRA.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan expressed her gratitude yesterday to Rep. Sablan for the support and assistance he extended to the CNMI public education.

Based on federal laws and policies, federal grants could only be used to assist—not supplant—the local appropriation for PSS.

In Fiscal Year 2008, the federal government—through USDOE and USDA grants—spent about $2,639 for every CNMI student, a slight increase from the $2,534 per child cost in 2007.

In previous years, the federal per child allocation for the CNMI amounted to $2,422 in 2006; $2,425 in 2005; $2,378 in 2004; $2,046 in 2003; $1,600 in 2002; $1,700 in 2001; and $1,758 in 2000.

Compared to local appropriation, the CNMI has the lowest per child allocation from local funds in FY 2008, amounting to only $3,182 per student.

That figure was considered the lowest ever appropriated per public school student in the last 14 years, or from 1994 to 2008.

SHELL

From Page 1

Jeff Boyer, Shell retail area manager, yesterday said the company is only "reflecting the increased cost of crude oil" in the international market.

"We're just following the trend. There's no secret there," Boyer said in a phone interview.

Gas prices have been driven higher as the price of crude oil, which is the main ingredient in gasoline, has more than doubled since the end of last year. The price of oil rose to $72.68 a barrel Thursday, its highest level in more than 7 months, CNN reported.

The year's first round of price increases on Saipan was on Feb. 20 and 21 by 15 cents a gallon.

Three months later or on May 14 and 15, Shell and Mobil Oil Marianas again raised their pump prices by 15 cents a gallon.

On June 1, both oil giants again imposed a 15-cent a gallon hike in pump prices.

Because of the 10-cent hike, self-serve regular unleaded gasoline at Shell is now $3.37 a gallon, while self-serve premium gasoline is now $3.69 a gallon. Diesel now costs $3.54 a gallon.

The latest and fourth increase in prices by Shell is expected to be mirrored soon by Mobil, as they always do.

Mobil and Shell do not announce beforehand any changes in their pump prices.

Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan) earlier asked the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate Mobil and Shell for what he describes as a "disturbing and blatant case of price fixing" in the CNMI by the two oil giants.

In his two-page letter dated June 3, Torres said Mobil and Shell have been setting "artificially high" gasoline and diesel fuel prices and then conspiring to set a fixed equal price for their commodity at each sales outlet. This practice of collusion and price fixing continues to this date, he said.

He, however, has yet to receive a response from the Justice Department.

300 FT.

From Page 1

The suspect or suspects forcibly opened the steel exit door at the engineering department and stole copper wire that was installed as generator cable.

The burglar also went inside the guest rooms and rifled the cabinets but it was not clear yet whether some items were stolen from the rooms.

A worker said the stolen wire was about two to three inches in diameter, was 300 feet long, with an estimated worth of $10,000 to $20,000, but probably worth only $1,500 if sold to a recycling center.

A month ago, Pacific Quality Builder workers also conducted a welding job to seal the same exit door after the hotel was burglarized.

Workers then installed barbed wires in some areas on the second floor where the burglars could possibly gain entry into the building.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to release any information about Monday's burglary.

Plumeria Resort was built in 1990 by Saipan Achugao Resort Joint Venture, with commercial and retail spaces and guest rooms. After the resort was completed, individual resort guest rooms were sold to members of the joint venture for between $100,000 and $400,000 per unit.

A legal dispute then occurred between SARMA and one of its members. SARMA sued one member for alleged nonpayment for management and maintenance fees. But the member also filed a counter lawsuit against the association for the alleged forced sale of his units.

In November 2006, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered the termination of the three-year-old receivership imposed on the resort and its owners.

In October 2008, Plumeria Resort was closed.

NO

From Page 1

private firm's defective building plan.

The project was conceived and built during the time of former Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who is again running for the position in the November 2009 gubernatorial elections.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who was speaker of the House of Representatives during Babauta's term, sought the OIG's help to ensure funds were spent in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The project started as a $5 million dialysis center, and was modified to become a $17.6 million state-of-the-art facility two years ago, boosting its price tag to $22 million.

However, two years after the completion of construction, the building has yet to be used for its original purpose—as a dialysis center—mainly due to its failure to meet Medicare standards.

Just recently, the Department of Public Health discovered that the center's reverse osmosis water system had a "forged" U.S. Food and Drug Administration certification.

Acting Health Secretary Pete Untalan, in a phone interview, said they are firm on the target opening date of August 2009 for the dialysis center.

"Regardless of the lawsuit filed, we're looking forward to the August opening. We're hoping to get Medicare approval of the facility weeks before that," Untalan told Saipan Tribune.

Root cause of deficiencies

U.S. Inspector General Earl Devaney and former Public Auditor Mike Sablan, in their June 8, 2007 evaluation report, said the lack of a strong contracting office "is the root cause for deficiencies identified in the CNMI's contract management.

The Department of Public Works secretary or his designee was the expenditure authority for the dialysis project when contracts were awarded during Babauta's term.

"Key contracting officials in [the] CNMI, however, are political appointees and often lack the contracting expertise to plan and administer CIP projects. In this case, DPW did not have a qualified and experienced contracting officer or cost-price analyst to plan and administer the project," the OIG/OPA report said.

It also said the practice of using political appointees results in the lack of continuity for complex long-term capital improvement projects, such as the dialysis project.

In 2006, for example, the CNMI elected a new administration, and the dialysis project's contracting officer and contracting officer's technical representative, both political appointees, subsequently resigned.

A copy of the OIG/OPA evaluation report can be viewed online at http://74.125.155.132/search?q=cache:tq0l3QihVYAJ:www.doioig.gov/upload/2007-G-0026.txt+cnmi+dialysis+building+design+contractors&cd=3&hl=en&ct=clnk.

"Political appointments may also result in the selection of individuals who may not be the best qualified for the position. Both the contracting officer and contracting officer's technical representative positions are critical in developing a strong contracting office and ideally should be filled by individuals who have permanent status and meet requirements comparable to their federal counterparts," the report said.

The contracting officer should be assisted by an experienced cost-price analyst and other key advisors, it added.

Recommendations

Devaney and Sablan issued four recommendations addressed to Fitial "to help [the] CNMI better manage the contracting process," but it's not clear whether all these were heeded by the administration.

These recommendations are:

1. Develop a contracting office with highly skilled professionals, along the lines of federal requirements, who are capable of effectively managing large-scale CIPs.

2. Use the Federal Acquisition Regulation as the framework to identify best practices and the general framework for revising A&E contracts.

3. Direct contracting officials to comply with existing grant and procurement regulations.

4. Establish and maintain a CNMI-wide contractor performance evaluation database to assist with the evaluation process and document and take appropriate corrective actions for contractor nonperformance.

Fitial, in his March 6, 2007 response to OIG/OPA's draft report, concurred with Recommendations 1, 2, and 3, but did not address Recommendation 4.

Thus, OIG/OPA considered the first three recommendations to be resolved but not implemented.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes said yesterday "significant steps have been taken to address the points raised in the report."

"I am not aware of any similar project failure on the part of this administration. I understand the CIP office, DPW, Procurement, and the Office of Attorney General [including the CNMI's CIP Project Task Force] are working together to avoid such mistakes," he said.

Reyes said: "More careful contracting procedures are now in place to deal with the extensive reporting and accountability standards demanded by ARRA [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act] stimulus projects under the Obama Administration."

Questioned cost, no funding

The CNMI government also built the dialysis building without identifying a funding source for the estimated $5 million to $8 million needed annually to operate the new facility.

In 2005, DPH hired Summit Consulting International to review the delay claims of construction contractors AIC Marianas and its subcontractor SSFM International Inc. amounting to $855,535. Summit questioned $588,313 of the claimed amount, and recommended payment of $267,222.

It's not clear whether the questioned cost has been substantiated by the contractors and paid by the government.

OIA oversight

Devaney and Sablan, in their report, said because of serious management deficiencies, they also evaluated the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs' oversight of the project. Federal funds were used for the project.

"Instead of proactive oversight, however, your office failed to heed obvious red flags, which indicated serious project management problems, and to use the tools at your disposal to keep the project on target," the OIG/OPA report said.

OIA, in its response, said it "respectfully assert[ed] that OIA has provided appropriate and effective oversight of the project" and identified a number of actions taken "to help the CNMI government to more effectively perform its contract management responsibilities."

But OIG disagreed, pointing to the troubled history of the project itself as proof of OIA's failure to heed obvious warning signs, such as the 2003 and 2005 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' reports.

Discrepancy in salaries demoralizing local nurses

The large disparity in the salaries of local nurses compared to recruits from the U.S. mainland or from the Philippines and elsewhere is "a morale issue" within the Commonwealth Health Center, according to the president of the CNMI Nursing Association.

Lee Q. Castro, who is also the vice president of the American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council, said these discrepancies are demoralizing local nurses.

"When we say local nurses, it refers to all nurses from Pacific islands like Palau, Pohnpei, the CNMI, and others," Castro explained.

The difference is about $17,000 annually for new nurses, Castro said, to as high as $25,000 for higher levels.

For instance, Castro said, while an off-island recruit gets $40,000 per annum on top of benefits like housing allowance, a graduate of the Northern Mariana College would get only about $23,000 without the benefits.

ANLC is on the third day of its 31st annual conference at the Hyatt Regency Saipan with over a hundred delegates and observers from 12 nations attending.

Family nurse practitioner Arley Gutierrez-Long presented a picture of the nursing shortage in the CNMI as well as the scenario of the impact of the impending federalization of immigration in the CNMI.

Based on Long's data, the CNMI has a total of 117 nurses, including 141 registered nurses, 45 licensed practical nurses and 31 nursing assistants.

CHC has 113 LPN, 28 NA, and 14 other unspecified while private clinics have a total of 19 RN, six LPN and 9 NA.

There are also five RNs, five LPNs, 4 LPN graduates and two NA at the Tinian Health Clinic and four RNs, six LPNs and five NAs at the Rota Health Center.

Prevailing wages in the CNMI ranges from $24,889.35 to $42,000 annually for RNs; $20,484.60 to $30,450 for LPNs; and $13,052.21 to $22,302.94 for NAs.

Long said the nursing shortage in the CNMI is a function of budget constraints and the multiple tasks that they perform.

ANLC president Toaga A. Seumalo said this shortage must be addressed locally by encouraging more island youths to take up a nursing profession.

Besides the staffing shortage and funding challenge, "there are also politics involved because of the changes in administration," Seumalo said.

Meanwhile, Seumalo thanked the people of Saipan for again hosting the annual conference. The last time the CNMI hosted the event was in 1999. Palau will be hosting next year's event. She thanked also the planning committee. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Man gets another theft conviction

A man who was convicted last year in connection with the burglary at the Little Angels Day Care in Koblerville got another conviction for theft.

Simon Aldan Sebuu, 25, who pleaded guilty to theft, was sentenced to five years in prison, all suspended except for 45 days.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja ordered Sebuu to serve the prison term in addition to his ongoing sentence in a previous criminal case, which ends on Dec. 9, 2009.

After serving his sentence, Sebuu will be placed on four years of supervised probation.

Naraja required Sebuu to pay $1,325 in restitution to the victim, plus $400 probation fee and $100 court assessment fee.

The plea agreement states that on or between April 21 to 26, 2007, Sebuu stole assorted tools belonging to Romeo Guevarra from the balcony of Guevarra's apartment.

That same month, Sebuu and other persons were arrested for allegedly burglarizing the Little Angels Day Care and stealing copper wire. In August 2007, the jury acquitted Sebuu of burglary, but associate judge David Wiseman found him guilty of theft and criminal mischief and sentenced him to two year in prison. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

USS *Thach* crew basks in 'Hafa Adai' spirit

David Haas, commander of the visiting USS *Thach*, is no stranger to Saipan, having visited the island once while on another ship.

"I have been here before but I love this island. I like the setting, especially the beaches. In fact I brought my own bike to tour the place like what I usually do," said Haas.

Haas made his first visit to Saipan in 2003 as executive officer aboard the USS *Blue Ridge*, the flagship of the U.S. Navy's Seventh Fleet.

Haas and his 230-man crew will end today their four-day tour.

"We are very thankful for the hospitality of the people. We will definitely come back," said Haas during the exchange of memorabilia and plaques of appreciation with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Veterans and Military Affairs Office at Hard Rock Café on Monday night.

Thach command master chief Karim Cole said he will not pass up a chance to revisit Saipan. "I will come back anytime. I love the hospitality of the people and we always want to do community work here," he said.

Thach is on its first visit to Saipan. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Fitial reports on WGA meeting

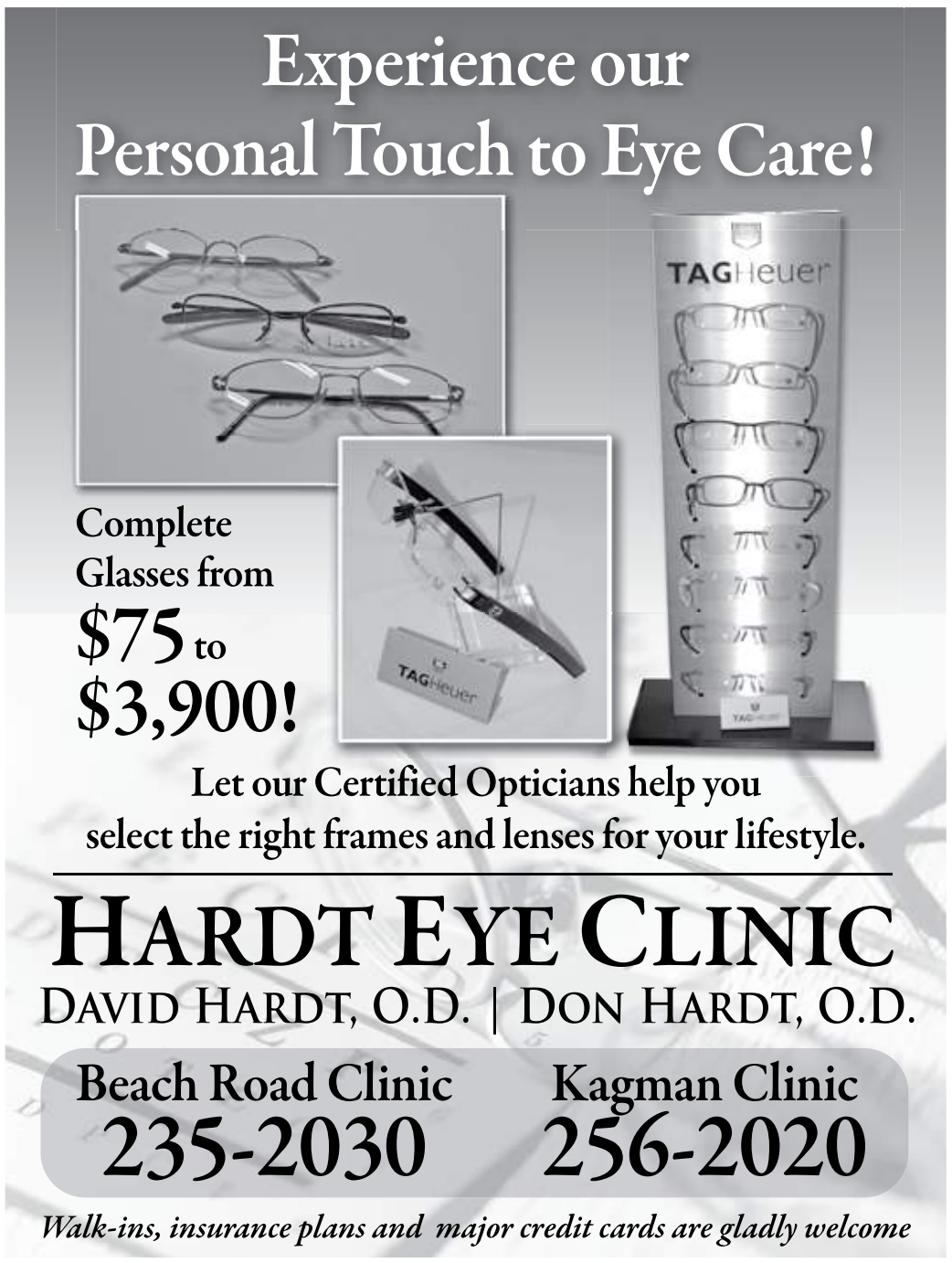
"The WGA meeting yesterday was a great success and of tremendous benefit to all the governors in attendance," said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in an e-mail to his staff.

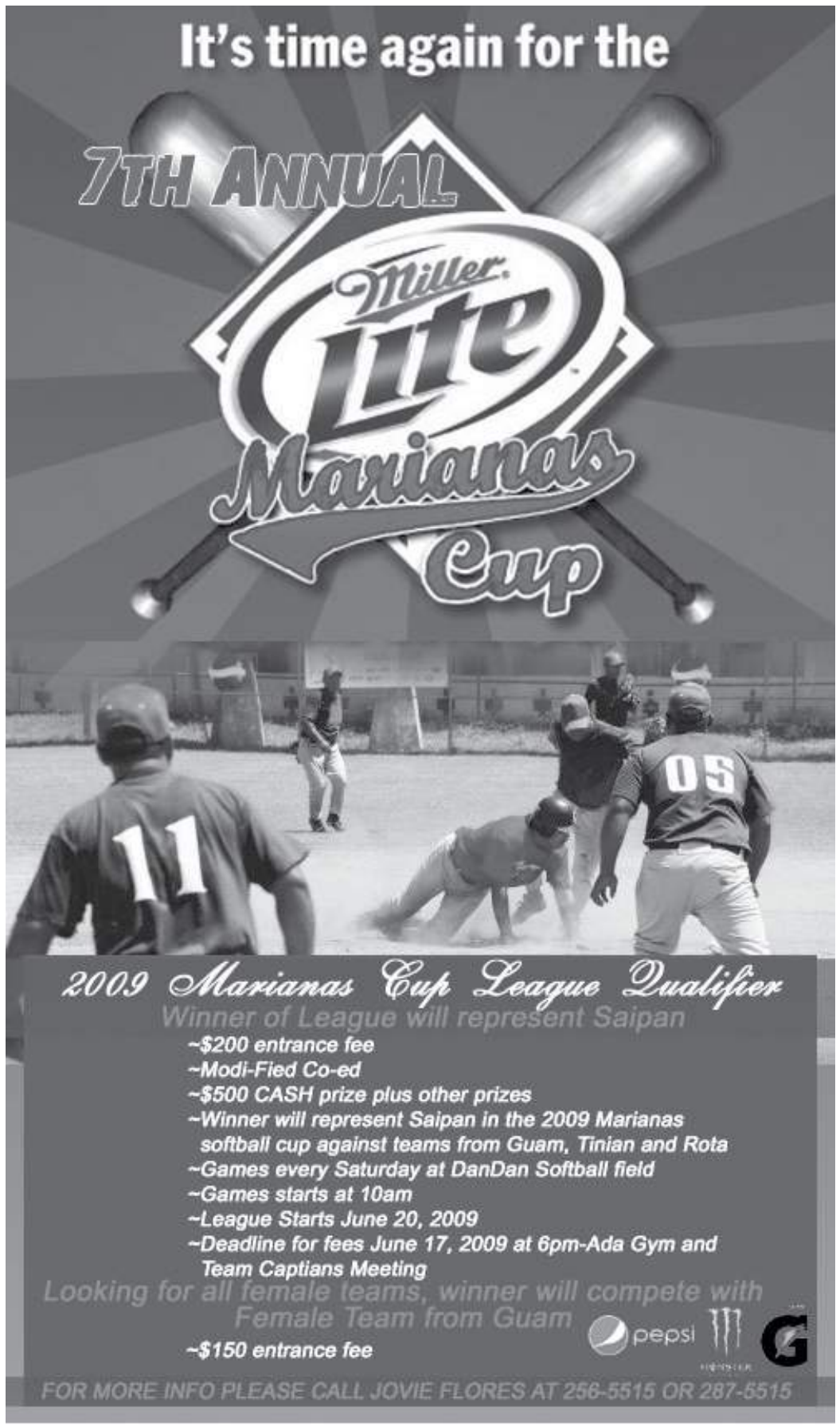
"President Obama's key officials dealing in his Clean Energy Economy program filled the meeting with energy presentations and provided answers to questions posed by the governors. These officials included Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Energy Secretary Dr. Steven Chu, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, and Council on Environmental Quality chair Nancy Sutley.

"In the afternoon, these federal officials were joined by the president of the World Bank, Robert Zoellick, and British Embassy economist Nick Bridge to talk about combating global climate change," Fitial added.

Fitial is scheduled to meet David Hayes, Deputy Secretary of Interior, on Wednesday morning, U.S. Mountain Time.

Fitial is expected to return to the CNMI on Friday. ***(PR)***




It's time again for the
7TH ANNUAL
Miller Lite
Marianas
Cup
2009 Marianas Cup League Qualifier
Winner of League will represent Saipan
~$200 entrance fee
~Modi-Fied Co-ed
~$500 CASH prize plus other prizes
~Winner will represent Saipan in the 2009 Marianas softball cup against teams from Guam, Tinian and Rota
~Games every Saturday at DanDan Softball field
~Games starts at 10am
~League Starts June 20, 2009
~Deadline for fees June 17, 2009 at 6pm-Ada Gym and Team Captians Meeting
Looking for all female teams, winner will compete with Female Team from Guam
~$150 entrance fee
pepsi
FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL JOVIE FLORES AT 256-5515 OR 287-5515

APIL backs status for IRs of FAS citizens

The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures adopted two resolutions introduced by CNMI lawmakers ahead of the start of transition to federal immigration system, including continuous access to Chinese and Russian tourists under a joint visa waiver program with Guam.

Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said yesterday the resolution he introduced did not meet any objection from Pacific lawmakers.

The CNMI government says the islands will suffer a loss of $242 million in direct and indirect economic impact if Chinese and Russian tourists are excluded from the joint Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program that will take effect on Nov. 28.

Also adopted during the APIL's 28th General Assembly from June 9 to 12 in Pohnpei was Rep. Rosemond Santos's (R-Saipan) resolution asking the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to grant a U.S. immigration status to spouses and children of Freely Associated States citizens.

The Immigration and Nationality Act does not recognize the CNMI permanent resident status of the relatives of FAS citizens.

Once the transition to federalization starts on Nov. 28, these relatives of FAS citizens lose their status to remain in the CNMI and may be deported unless DHS provides them with an INA status, said Benavente.

Benavente and Santos were among five lawmakers who attended last week's APIL general assembly focused on the military buildup on Guam and its impact on Pacific islands.

The others were Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), Vice Speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), and Rep. Edwin Aldan (Cov-Tinian). ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

EUCON International College
P.O. Box 500087 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, USA
Tel: 670-234-3207 Fax: 670-235-3209
Email: admission@eucon.edu
Web site: www.eucon.edu

Eucon International School & College immediately needs two (2) Accountants

Qualifications:
- College Graduate, major in Accounting
- At least 3 years work experience in general accounting, financial statements and schedules
- Good in account analysis, audit preparation and management reports
- Good moral character

If interested submit your resume to Eucon International School on Middlle Road Gualo Rai or call our office at 234-3203 or 234-3207. Look for Chit Santos or Grace Daraug.

Cops undergo crash course in investigating traffic accidents

By ANITA B. HOFSCHNEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A total of 30 police officers from Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are taking a crash course in traffic accidents this week. The training, which began yesterday and will continue for two weeks, is led by Kyle Clark and Bobby Jones from the Institute of Police Technology and Management, a nonprofit company based in Florida.

"So far it's been going really well," said Clark, who has taught this course since 1999. This is Clark's first visit to Saipan, but it is not the first time that local police officers were exposed to this training. Clark said both the introductory and advanced levels of the course have been offered on Saipan for several years. This week Clark and Jones are teaching the basic course, but last June other instructors from IPTM taught the advanced level.

"Today we are covering physical evidence in a traffic crash," said Clark. "This week we will cover how to calculate vehicle speeds, and next week we will cover measurement [of skids]."

Yesterday, participants sat with calculators and pens in hand as Jones explained the equation that determines vehicular speed.

"It's totally different from what they teach you in your basic academy," said Ed Perez, who works in the Highway Patrol Division in Guam. "It is more in depth."

Other participants agreed.

"All of this stuff stands out," said Adrian Mendiola from the Commonwealth Ports Authority on Saipan. "It's very useful."

The training is not only based in the classroom; on Friday, the students will take their learning outside.

"We will take a car and skid it…to measure the skid marks," said Clark.

The training is being funded by federal grants.

After completing 80 hours of training, participants will receive certificates of completion.

Teen gets a prison term for burglary

A teenager who was involved in many burglary cases, including one at Victory Chapel, has been slapped with a prison sentence.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja sentenced 19-year-old Julian M. Sablan to five years in prison, all suspended except for two years and four months.

Naraja gave Sablan credit for one year and four months of time already served at the Kagman Detention Center and Department of Corrections.

Sablan's remaining term of 12 months shall be served on weekends up to 2016, Naraja said.

After completing his prison term, Sablan will be placed on 10 years of probation.

Naraja required the defendant to perform 400 hours of community service and to write a letter of apology to the victims, Roshi's and Victory Chapel.

During his 10-year probation, Sablan will be barred from possessing and consuming alcoholic beverages.

Naraja ordered Sablan to pay a $500 fine, $100 court assessment fee, and $1,000 probation fee.

For three criminal cases in 2008, the judge ordered the defendant to pay jointly with co-defendants $119.50 for three DVD players; $507.19 in lost items and property damage; and $124.50 for damage to a window.

For his two juvenile cases in 2007, Sablan was ordered to pay jointly with co-defendants $2,500 in stolen U.S. currency and $35 in stolen merchandize.

In three other juvenile cases in 2006 and 2007, no restitution was imposed against the defendant.

Naraja also imposed terms and conditions that may entitle the defendant to reduction in jail term and probationary period.

In March 2008, Sablan and four other males, including two juveniles, were arrested by the Department of Public Safety's Thief Apprehension Select Coalition for the burglary at Roshi's Market in Kagman. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

INTRODUCING MOTOROLA
STATURE i9
PHONE HIGHLIGHTS:
• 3.1 MEGAPIXEL CAMERA WITH 8X ZOOM AND FLASH
• VIDEO CAMERA & MUSIC PLAYER
• HIGH RES EXT DISPLAY WITH TOUCH CONTROLS
• STEREO BLUETOOTH
• MICRO SD SUPPORT UP TO 8GB
• WIRELESS WEB ENABLED
FREE
MOTOROLA H680
BLUETOOTH HEADSET
Voted Best Voice Headset according to Money Magazine.
Universal - works with compatible Bluetooth enabled phones.
A $79.99 value.
This Father's day,
give dad the gift of stature.
iCONNECT
Offer valid while supplies last and until June 30, 2009. Some conditions apply.
Saipan - Guam Office 888.8888 / www.iconnectsaipan.com

Zoning wants direct dialogue with biz on petition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The head of the Commonwealth Zoning board wants businesses to directly approach and air their concern with the board on whatever issues they may have with the Saipan zoning law.

Zoning board chair Henry Hofschneider said yesterday the panel is willing to discuss with businesses all the issues they raised in the petition they are now circulating for the suspension of the zoning law.

"The Zoning board welcomes and appreciates direct dialogue with the public on issues concerning the Saipan zoning law," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He believes it is much more effective and productive for the Zoning board to address comments, concerns, suggestions, and criticisms by receiving them directly rather than indirectly such as the petition drive.

He also pointed out that the zoning law was enacted because of strong public support.

A group of concerned citizens and businesses are circulating a petition urging the suspension of the zoning law and for the Saipan delegation members to enact a new law that they said would fit the current status of businesses on island.

The petitioners are seeking some 3,000 signatures of support before presenting it to local lawmakers.

Hofschneider said the board encourages the public to call or directly write Zoning board members about their issues with the law.

He said their meetings are also open to the public, which is scheduled every first Thursday of the month.

The two-page petition states that, although they believe the zoning law has its merits and noble intentions, there is no quantifiable evidence showing that the chief legislative findings used to justify and support the act's enactment have been satisfied.

Among its alleged failings is its failure to simplify and streamline the previous law to fit the realities of Saipan's relatively small, rural, and uncomplicated social, physical and development environment.

The petitioners also believe that the zoning board has limited administrative capabilities to effectively enforce the law.

Nursing leaders not worried about H1N1

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nurses are the ones most vulnerable to any infectious diseases such as the H1N1 flu virus but nursing leaders from various Pacific islands who are currently on Saipan for a conference said they are not worried because they know how to monitor themselves.

"We don't really see these things as threats to us," said Lee Q. Castro, president of the CNMI Nursing Association and vice president of the American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council.

The APNLC is holding its 31st Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency Saipan with 10 jurisdictions in attendance, including American Samoa, CNMI, Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap, Palau, Guam, Hawaii, and the Marshall Islands.

ANLC president Toaga A. Seumalo assured that, although they came from different areas, there is nothing to worry about them transmitting the H1N1 virus.

"Not anyone from the 10 jurisdictions has confirmed cases of H1N1," Seumalo said.

The delegation were subjected to minor health screening procedures upon arriving at the airport last weekend for the five-day conference on June 15-19.

"I saw some information materials posted around the airport," she said.

Seumalo, who is from American Samoa, said that nurses know how to handle themselves such as washing their hands and employing other basic hygiene.

She urged people to follow all the health guidelines about the swine flu like avoiding large public gatherings and avoiding talking to strangers.

Castro said five participants are from Japan and one is from the Philippines, both countries joining the conference for the first time.

Japan and the Philippines are the two Asian countries that have the most number of H1N1 cases.

According to the latest update on H1N1 from the World Health Organization, Japan has 605 confirmed cases while there are 77 in the Philippines.

There are now 76 countries with confirmed cases since Monday, June 15, 2009, with a total of 35, 928 cases of influenza A(H1N1) infection, including 163 deaths.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO. 2009-CDA-02-ITB

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 · 10:00 A.M.

"SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY — PACIFIC GARDENIA HOTEL"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE 1st FLOOR, COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PL15-118 AND MUST BE SUMBITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

BEFORE THE
COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 10:00 a.m. on June 20, 2009 at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Conference Room. The meeting will consider the following agenda:

1. **Call to order – quorum.**
2. **Approval of minutes of April 2, 2009 meeting.**
3. **Docket 09-2. Reconsideration of increase in CUC wastewater rates.**
4. **Docket 09-4 [Cable regulation]: Hearing examiner's report.**
5. **Administration:**
   - FY10 Administrative budget
   - Other business

Documents related to the agenda are posted on the Chamber's website at **www.saipanchamber.com.** Questions regarding the meeting should be referred to Commissioner Calabrese, whose phone number is 233-7150.

Announcement

The Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI GOP) will conduct and supervise an Open Primary Election on June 27, 2009. All currently registered voters in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, on the official roster listing provided by the Election Commission, will be permitted to vote on June 27, 2009, at the polling places designated below by election precinct.

There will be no advance voting and no voting by absentee ballots.

CNMI GOP PRIMARY ELECTION DATE
June 27, 2009
Polls will open at 7 am and close at 6 pm

POLLING PLACES

The polling places are as follows:

SAIPAN:
Precinct 1:
- San Antonio Elementary School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School

Precinct 2:
- Municipal Council Office

Precinct 3:
- Oleai Elementary School
- Garapan Elementary School

Precinct 4:
- Tanapag Youth Center
- Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School (San Roque)
- Legislature Building (Capital Hill).

Precinct 5:
- Kagman Community Center

Northern Islands , Rota and Tinian voters on Saipan:
Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

TINIAN:
Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria

ROTA:
Northern Marianas College Campus

VOTING IN ANOTHER MUNICIPALITY ON THE PRIMARY ELECTION DAY:

Voters registered on Rota, Tinian, Saipan, or Northern Islands, who will be present in another municipality on the Primary Election Day, will be allowed to vote. Those voters are required to notify the CNMI GOP by filling out a form provided by the CNMI GOP no later than 12 noon on June 26, 2009. Only those voters who notify the CNMI GOP by the deadline shall be permitted to vote at the Multi-Purpose Center, in Susupe, Saipan; at the Tinian Elementary School on Tinian; and NMC Campus on Rota.

REGISTERED VOTER LISTING:

The eligible list of voters shall be from the latest computerized listing of voters provided by the Election Commission to the CNMI GOP scheduled to be released by June 15, 2009.

Any person who registers to vote with the Election Commission after the cut-off date will be eligible to vote in the Primary Election by presenting a valid voter registration card and a photo ID from a government entity, such as a driver's license or passport, as proof of identity.

CONFINED VOTERS:

Confined voters will be permitted to cast their ballots in their homes by making a request on a form provided by the CNMI GOP at the GOP office no later than 12 noon on June 27, 2009. A designated team of poll workers will be responsible for delivering the ballots to the homes of confined voters to ensure that the ballots are cast in private, the ballots are collected and secured by depositing into a designated ballot box.

For more information please contact the CNMI GOP office at 235-4467, or visit us at the CNMI GOP Headquarters at the Oleai Center, Suite # 113, in San Jose Village, Saipan.

Paid for by the Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI GOP) – David J. Attao, Treasurer.

Palau accepts Uighurs amid Compact review

TOMOKO A. HOSAKA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KOROR, Palau (AP)—Palau's decision to take in 13 Guantanamo detainees is a humanitarian gesture from a country that prides itself on welcoming society's castaways.

It also appears to be about the money.

President Johnson Toribiong has repeatedly denied that this tiny Pacific archipelago stands to benefit financially in exchange for accepting the Chinese Muslims, known as Uighurs. But the arrangement coincides with the start of talks to review the agreement that governs Palau's relationship with the U.S.—its most important strategic and financial benefactor.

Under the Compact of Free Association, Washington's aid to Palau from 1995 to 2009 is expected to exceed $852 million, according to a report last year by the U.S. Government Accountability Office. It includes direct funding as well as access to U.S. postal, aviation and weather services.

It also paid for a massive, nine-year public works project to build a 53-mile (85-kilometer) road that loops around Palau's biggest island.

U.S. aid to Palau, a former U.S. trust territory about 500 miles (800 kilometers) east of the Philippines, is vital to the tiny island's economy. From 2000 to 2006 it accounted for more than one-third of Palau's revenue.

Key parts of the compact, including the section on direct assistance, are facing a mandatory 15-year-review and will expire Sept. 30 unless they are renewed. Negotiations on the compact began in early June and are ongoing.

"Any independent thinking person will say (the Uighurs) will have an effect (on the compact review), despite the fact that the politicians say it has nothing to do with it," Joshua Koshiba, head of Palau's negotiating team with Washington, said Monday.

Palau is one of the world's smallest countries, with some 20,000 people scattered over 190 square miles (490 square kilometers) of lush tropical landscapes. Its economy depends heavily on tourism and foreign aid from the U.S., Japan and Taiwan.

The island made headlines last week after agreeing to President Barack Obama's request to take the 13 Uighurs after other countries turned Washington down.

In the midst of aid discussions, the country is using the Uighurs to remind Washington that it is a loyal friend and ally. It could also benefit from a credibility boost after the GAO released an unflattering assessment of Palau's management of U.S. aid.

A GAO report last year cited "persistent internal control weaknesses over financial reporting," and said Palau had trouble addressing the accounting issues because of its limited access to resources and expertise.

Koshiba acknowledged Palau's financial missteps, saying, "with so much economic aid (the U.S.) gave us, I guess we were not that good at implementing them right."

"We did spend the money, but we spent on things that were not essential to the growth of the economy," he said, citing the construction of traditional meeting houses—or "abais"—that boosted cultural pride but are not used.

Koshiba, a former senator, blames both his country and the U.S., which he says provided little guidance—something he says Palau needed after living under foreign rule since the late 19th century. The GAO also noted that the U.S. Department of the Interior's oversight of funds to Palau was limited.

In talks with Washington now, Koshiba said he will seek advice and expertise to go along with new aid.

For its part, the U.S. says it remains committed to Palau and its island neighbors as critical strategic footholds to maintain global security.

Mark Bezner, charge d'affaires for the U.S. in Palau, said the compact has "worked well" so far and he expects only minor changes.

Palau's president traveled to Washington in March and met with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and lawmakers, seeking support for continued financial aid to Palau.

"That was when Palau sort of got onto the mental map of people in Washington," Bezner said.

Less than three months later, the U.S. turned to Palau to host the Uighurs.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

ADDENDUM 1
DPW09-IFB-019

PUERTO RICO DUMP FINAL CLOSURE SAIPAN, MP

1. **General:** The following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawings shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein. In the event of a conflict between drawings, specifications and this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. All further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution. **Failure to acknowledge this bid Addendum in accordance with instructions may subject your bid to rejection on the affected item(s)/service(s).**

2. **Pre-Bid Conference:** A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at ***Thursday, June 11,2009 at 10:00 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division's Lower Base Transfer Station, Lower Base, Sa/pan, MP.***

3. **All Questions:** All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time ***Thursday, June 18, 2009*** to Mr. Steve Hiney, Contracting Officer's Technical Representative, Lower Base Transfer Station, or fax to (670) 322-2762.

4. **Sealed Bids:** must be marked "DPW09-IFB-019". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. July 6,2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. local time July 6, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-Mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 6, 2009, and must be received no later than July 15, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

5. **Bid Opening:** Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 16,2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids wil1 be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 6, 2009

All other requirements of the Invitation for Bids of the project package remain as stated.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-019

PUERTO RICO DUMP FINAL CLOSURE SAIPAN, MP

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Division of Solid Waste Management, are soliciting sealed Bids for construction, of the Puerto Rico Dump closure system, on the island of Saipan.

The project package will be available on or after May 27, 2009, at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, SAipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid package. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7 "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 **is not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and serivices on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by CNMI and Federal Law.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on June 5, 2009, 10:0 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division's Lower Base Transfer Station, Lower Base.. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site and condition of the project. All questions regarding the project must be submitted in writing no later than June 10, 2009 to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas,** Acting Director, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, or fax to (670) 322-2762.

Sealed bids shall be marked with the name of the submitter and the title "**Puerto Rico Dump Final Closure, DPW-09-IFB-019"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and six (6) copies of Bids must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, June 22, 2009 to the Director of Procurement and Supply, P.O. Box 10008, Cnmi, Saipan, MP 96950. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than June 22, 2009 and must be transmitted via Facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or va e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and six (6) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 22, 2009, and must be received no later than July 1, 2009. Failure to submit the required number of sets may be gount for rejection.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 2, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on June 22, 2009.

A bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Clerk or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". For Bid Bonds, surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as an acceptable surety to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment Bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI.

Performance time for completion of the project is three hundred sixty five **(365)** working days upon issuance of official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will assessed as provided for in the Bid Specification Package.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval of DOI/OIA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JUNE 17, 2002

60 years in prison for baby-sitter

Reynaldo Atrero Manila, the defendant convicted in the death of an infant who suffered Shaken Baby Syndrome, has been ordered to spend 60 years behind bars—a sentence believed to be the CNMI's heftiest to date for a second-degree murder conviction. In passing Manila's sentence Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Virginia Sablan-Onerheim explained that there is no other crime more heinous than the killing of an infant. The magistrate, who presided over Manila's jury trial last year, said the circumstances in the case warrant a sentence that will send a clear message that crimes—particularly the murder of a helpless infant—require severe punishment.

FDM's importance in war against terror stressed

Nine days after the resumption of bombing exercises on the Farallon de Mendinilla, the U.S. Navy briefed Commonwealth leaders anew on the strategic importance of the island and the role it plays in the U.S. Armed Forces' current war against terrorism. Gov. Juan N. Babauta said that Force Judge Advocate Edward Lynch, who acts as the attorney for the U.S. Navy, briefed him and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente last Friday on the current status of the bombing exercises and the steps being taken to ensure the continued use of the island for military exercises. Babauta said they also discussed environmental concerns and the issues being raised by the Center for Biological Diversity against the bombing exercises and the steps being implemented by the U.S. military to address those issues.

JUNE 17, 2003

Rota revives casino plan

Community leaders on Rota are currently pushing for a popular initiative to allow casino establishments on the island, outgoing Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig said. The move is aimed at improving Rota's revenue collection. So far, Tinian has the lone casino in the Northern Marianas after its residents voted in favor to establish a gambling facility years back. Atalig said one of the leaders of the initiative is Bill Hocog, Rota's resident director for the Department of Commerce. The senator said a draft initiative is being circulated among the island's registered voters.

Brown nominated as AG

Pam Brown Gov. Juan N. Babauta has formally nominated his legal counsel, Pam Brown, to the post of Attorney General. Babauta announced Brown's nomination during a news briefing yesterday afternoon, and transmitted her appointment to the Senate at the same time. Her appointment needs to be confirmed by the Senate. In his transmittal letter to the Senate leadership, Babauta said that Brown is extremely qualified to fulfill the vital responsibilities of the office. "The Lt. Governor and I look forward to having an experienced and capable person to fill this vital role, and feel that Ms. Brown is the right choice," he said. "I truly believe that we have a very strong candidate for the next Attorney General."

JUNE 17, 2004

AGO looks into water price hikes

The Attorney General's Office yesterday said it would look into the possibility that local water companies might have connived to raise their product's prices. CNMI consumer counsel Brian Caldwell said an investigation is proper to establish whether or not anti-trust and consumer laws have been violated. "We're definitely interested in looking into it," Caldwell said. "If the allegations are true, it [collusion to hike water prices] would constitute a violation of anti-trust laws in the CNMI. We will investigate the matter."

Continental, Cape Air to launch Guam-Rota flights

Continental Airlines announced yesterday the launching of its three-times daily flight between Guam and Rota beginning July 1 to better serve the region through its Continental Connection program. Continental Micronesia vice president for sales and marketing Walter Dias said that Continental Connection, operated by Cape Air, will offer convenient non-stop three times daily flight between Guam and Rota. "As a Continental Connection partner, Cape Air will operate the new service with 9-passenger Cessna 402 aircraft during the month of July. The airline intends to expand its service within the CNMI using larger ATR aircraft, as soon as completing necessary regulatory requirements," said Dias.

Mayors welcome Battles of Saipan, Tinian veterans

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas joined in commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian with messages to the visiting group of veterans.

"I am deeply honored for the opportunity to salute all our veterans, distinguished visitors and residents who are here with us," said Tudela during last Sunday's rites at the American Memorial Park.

Tudela, who was just 10 years old when American forces stormed the shores of Saipan on June 15, 1944, said the battle led to their liberation from Camp Susupe.

"My entire family will forever be grateful to the Americans for protecting us," he said.

He said the people of Saipan are also grateful that they were given the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

"We salute our brave men and women who took arms 65 years and served as scouts for the U.S. Marines during the Marianas campaign," Tudela said.

He also thanked and saluted those who are in active service in the U.S. Armed Force, especially in the frontline in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Five American veterans—Lyman C. Franklin, Kenneth Stinson, James Golden, James Olivera, and Marvin Avilla—are currently on Saipan to join the commemoration activities.

San Nicolas welcomed the visiting group, their friends, and relatives, saying the islands have changed much since 65 years ago.

"Although some of the memories you may have of our islands may have changed throughout the years, we sincerely hope that this 65th anniversary celebration will provide new and pleasant memories in your minds and hearts," said San Nicolas.

"If you are looking for a quiet getaway from the hustle and bustle of back home or of the city life of Saipan, I encourage all of you to take a brief visit to Tinian, where you can have your own private beach for a day, just as you all did 65 years ago," San Nicolas said.

He said the people of the Marianas would always be grateful for the sacrifices made by the young U.S. soldiers who liberated the islands.

"It is because of those hard fought sacrifices that our islands share that American dream today," he said. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health
Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: 670.664.4067 FAX: 670.664.4069

WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for Saipan, Tinian and Rota Vendors and Farmers. All interested Vendors and Farmers can pick up an application at the main office located at the upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, starting June 15, 2009 through July 17, 2009 (Mon. to Fri.), or download an application online by visiting our website at www.cnmiwic.org.

All applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., July 17, 2009.

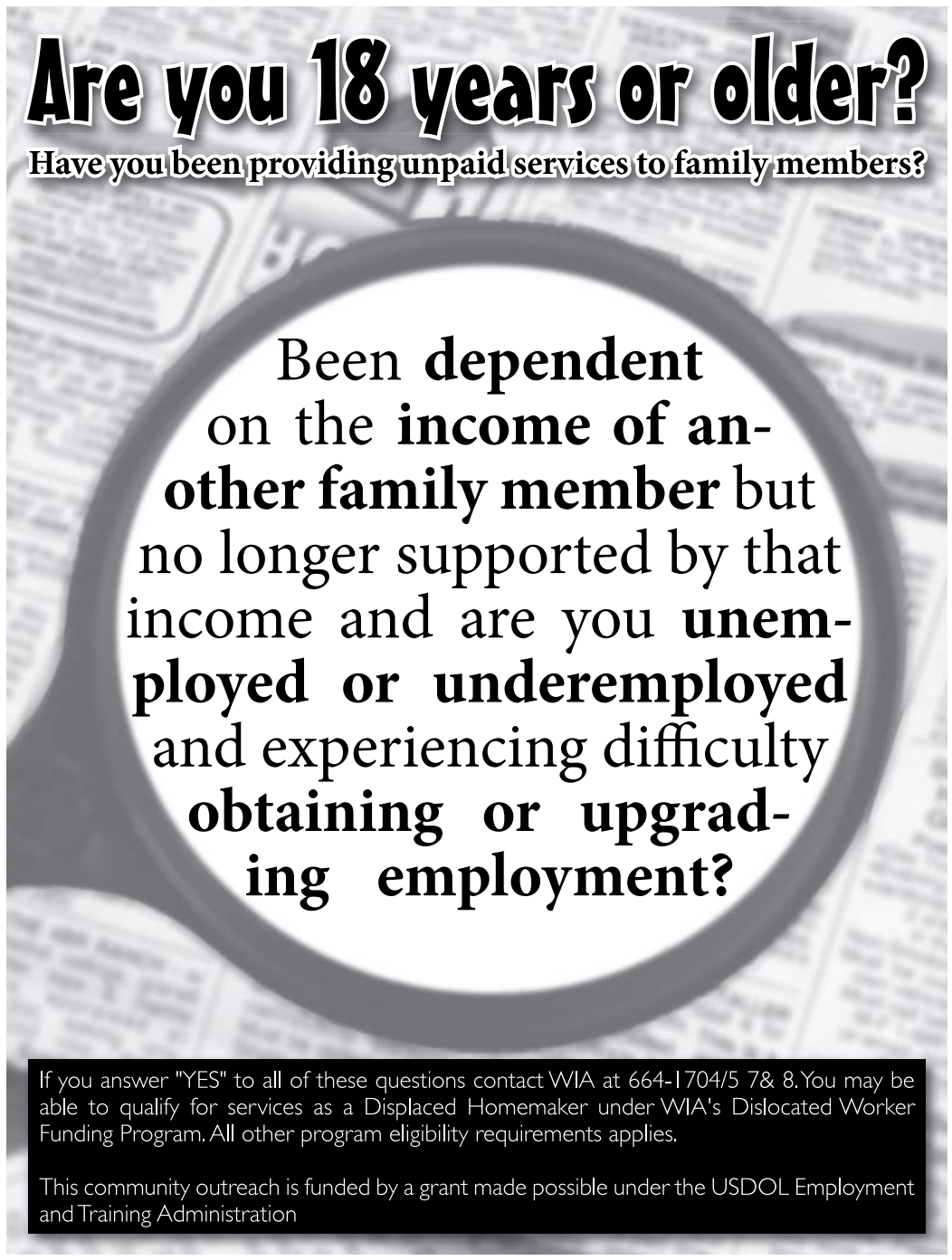
The Vendor and Farmer selection criteria are attached to the applications and can also be viewed online at www.cnmiwic.org. Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4071, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary of the
Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela
CNMI WIC Program, Director


Are you 18 years or older?
Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?
Been dependent on the income of another family member but no longer supported by that income and are you unemployed or underemployed and experiencing difficulty obtaining or upgrading employment?
If you answer "YES" to all of these questions contact WIA at 664-1704/5 7& 8. You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.
This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SINGAPORE	034E	6/6 Sat	6/4 Thu	6/4 Thu	6/2 Tue	5/30 Sat	6/12 Fri	6/8 Mon	6/7 Sun	5/31 Sun	5/31 Sun	6/8 Mon	6/12 Fri	6/14 Sun	6/16 Tue
MELL SENOKO	023E	6/13 Sat	6/11 Thu	6/11 Thu	6/9 Tue	6/6 Sat	6/19 Fri	6/15 Mon	6/14 Sun	6/7 Sun	6/7 Sun	6/15 Mon	6/19 Fri	6/21 Sun	6/23 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	022E	6/20 Sat	6/18 Thu	6/18 Thu	6/16 Tue	6/13 Sat	6/26 Fri	6/22 Mon	6/21 Sun	6/14 Sun	6/14 Sun	6/22 Mon	6/26 Fri	6/28 Sun	6/30 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	035E	6/27 Sat	6/25 Thu	6/25 Thu	6/23 Tue	6/20 Sat	7/3 Fri	6/29 Mon	6/28 Sun	6/21 Sun	6/21 Sun	6/29 Mon	7/3 Fri	7/5 Sun	7/7 Tue
MELL SENOKO	024E	7/4 Sat	7/2 Thu	7/2 Thu	6/30 Tue	6/27 Sat	7/10 Fri	7/6 Mon	7/5 Sun	6/28 Sun	6/28 Sun	7/6 Mon	7/10 Fri	7/12 Sun	7/14 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	023E	7/11 Sat	7/9 Thu	7/9 Thu	7/7 Tue	7/4 Sat	7/17 Fri	7/13 Mon	7/12 Sun	7/5 Sun	7/5 Sun	7/13 Mon	7/17 Fri	7/19 Sun	7/21 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SINGAPORE	034E	6/20 Sat	6/21 Sun	6/21 Sun	6/23 Tue	6/25 Thu	6/27 Sat	6/28 Sun	6/30 Tue	7/3 Fri	7/4 Sat	7/9 Thu	7/28 Tue	7/12 Sun	7/8 Wed
MELL SENOKO	023E	6/27 Sat	6/28 Sun	6/28 Sun	SKIP	7/2 Thu	7/4 Sat	7/5 Sun	7/7 Tue	7/10 Fri	7/11 Sat	7/16 Thu	8/4 Tue	7/19 Sun	7/15 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	022E	7/4 Sat	7/5 Sun	7/5 Sun	7/7 Tue	7/9 Thu	7/11 Sat	7/12 Sun	7/14 Tue	7/17 Fri	7/18 Sat	7/23 Thu	8/11 Tue	7/26 Sun	7/22 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	035E	7/11 Sat	7/12 Sun	7/12 Sun	SKIP	7/16 Thu	7/18 Sat	7/19 Sun	7/21 Tue	7/24 Fri	7/25 Sat	7/30 Thu	8/18 Tue	8/2 Sun	7/29 Wed
MELL SENOKO	024E	7/18 Sat	7/19 Sun	7/19 Sun	7/21 Tue	7/23 Thu	7/25 Sat	7/26 Sun	7/28 Tue	7/31 Fri	8/1 Sat	8/6 Thu	8/25 Tue	8/9 Sun	8/5 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	023E	7/25 Sat	7/26 Sun	7/26 Sun	SKIP	7/30 Thu	8/1 Sat	8/2 Sun	8/4 Tue	8/7 Fri	8/8 Sat	8/13 Thu	9/1 Tue	8/16 Sun	8/12 Wed

Weekly service. More frequent. More dependable.

Website: www.mariana-express.com

Exclusive General Agent of MELL

For bookings, you may call our Saipan agent:

CTSI LOGISTICS,
CTSI Building, Lower Base,
P.O. Box 501937,
Saipan MP 96950
Website: www.ctsi-logistics.com

Edgar T. Garcia
Inbound
Direct line (670) 236-2422

Jaime P. Salazar
Outbound
Direct line (670) 236-2410

Leslie F. Rodriguez
Sales and Marketing
Direct line (670) 236-2402

CTSI Logistics
Moving the world

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 144

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Neither free nor fair

No one outside the inner precincts of Iran's power structure knows who won that country's presidential election Friday. It's possible that a majority voted to re-elect Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, as he claims. It's also possible, as much of his opposition fervently believes, that the election was stolen. What we can say for certain is that the election was neither free nor fair. When a regime peremptorily chooses which candidates can run; shutters newspapers, web sites and television bureaus; silences text messaging; and throws critics into prison—such a regime should not expect its pronouncements on election results to garner any respect.

So, as a first step, the Obama administration should take care not to signal more respect for those results than they merit. Administration officials are right to be responding cautiously and to let the process play out. But there are principles that the administration could be defending even now, squarely supporting the rule of law and democratic expression in Iran. The United States could make clear that a government wanting to be taken seriously by the international community should not use violence against peaceful protests, arrest opposition leaders and their followers, jam radio broadcasts, or block Internet use. It could call for a transparent process to address opposition claims of fraud.

If Mr. Ahmadinejad consolidates his claimed victory, there will be time enough to develop a strategy. To deal with Iran's complex power structure without according it more legitimacy than it merits was always going to be a challenge; it would get harder now. President Obama has said, rightly, that Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions are unacceptable. He also has made clear, again rightly, that the West should explore all diplomatic possibilities before setting down a path of tightening sanctions or military action. That will remain true: The United States should be willing to talk about arms control and other areas of national interest with Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and whoever else can speak for the nation's foreign policy.

But it is now undeniable that many, many Iranians reject the Ahmadinejad regime and much of what it stands for, at home and abroad. The presidential campaigns revealed tremendous popular ferment in Iran and large swaths of discontent with current economic, foreign and social policies, including the repression of women. U.S.-Iranian relations are unlikely to flourish as long as so many voices there remain suppressed. As Mr. Obama began doing in his Cairo speech, the United States has to find a way to speak to Iran's people as well as the leaders who claim to represent them.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

IT'S NOT FAIR! SASHA GETS A RAISE IN HER ALLOWANCE! WHY NOT ME?
NOW, NOW... WE'RE STILL REVIEWING BANK OF AMERICA'S PAY STRUCTURE, MR. LEWIS!
KEVIN SIERS ©2009 CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

The Iranian people speak

By KEN BALLEN and PATRICK DOHERTY
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

The election results in Iran may reflect the will of the Iranian people. Many experts are claiming that the margin of victory of incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was the result of fraud or manipulation, but our nationwide public opinion survey of Iranians three weeks before the vote showed Ahmadinejad leading by a more than 2 to 1 margin—greater than his actual apparent margin of victory in Friday's election.

While Western news reports from Tehran in the days leading up to the voting portrayed an Iranian public enthusiastic about Ahmadinejad's principal opponent, Mir Hossein Mousavi, our scientific sampling from across all 30 of Iran's provinces showed Ahmadinejad well ahead.

Independent and uncensored nationwide surveys of Iran are rare. Typically, pre-election polls there are either conducted or monitored by the government and are notoriously untrustworthy. By contrast, the poll undertaken by our nonprofit organizations from May 11 to May 20 was the third in a series over the past two years. Conducted by telephone from a neighboring country, field work was carried out in Farsi by a polling company whose work in the region for ABC News and the BBC has received an Emmy award. Our polling was funded by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

The breadth of Ahmadinejad's support was apparent in our pre-election survey. During the campaign, for instance, Mousavi emphasized his identity as an Azeri, the second-largest ethnic group in Iran after Persians, to woo Azeri voters. Our survey indicated, though, that Azeris favored Ahmadinejad by 2 to 1 over Mousavi.

Much commentary has portrayed Iranian youth and the Internet as harbingers of change in this election. But our poll found that only a third of Iranians even have access to the Internet, while 18 to 24 year olds comprised the strongest voting bloc for Ahmadinejad of all age groups.

The only demographic groups in which our survey found Mousavi leading or competitive with Ahmadinejad were university students and graduates, and the highest-income Iranians. When our poll was taken, almost a third of Iranians were also still undecided. Yet the baseline distributions we found then mirror the results reported by the Iranian authorities, indicating the possibility that the vote is not the product of widespread fraud.

Some might argue that the professed support for Ahmadinejad we found simply reflected fearful respondents' reluctance to provide honest answers to pollsters. Yet the integrity of our results is confirmed by the politically risky responses Iranians were willing to give to a host of questions. For instance, nearly four in five Iranians—including most Ahmadinejad supporters—said they wanted to change the political system to give them the right to elect Iran's supreme leader, who is not currently subject to popular vote. Similarly, Iranians chose free elections and a free press as their most important priorities for their government, virtually tied with improving the national economy. These were hardly "politically correct" responses to voice publicly in a largely authoritarian society.

Indeed, and consistently among all three of our surveys over the past two years, more than 70 percent of Iranians also expressed support for providing full access to weapons inspectors and a guarantee that Iran will not develop or possess nuclear weapons, in return for outside aid and investment. And 77 percent of Iranians favored normal relations and trade with the United States, another result consistent with our previous findings.

Iranians view their support for a more democratic system, with normal relations with the United States, as consonant with their support for Ahmadinejad. They do not want him to continue his hardline policies. Rather, Iranians apparently see Ahmadinejad as their toughest negotiator, the person best positioned to bring home a favorable deal—rather like a Persian Nixon going to China.

Allegations of fraud and electoral manipulation will serve to further isolate Iran and are likely to increase its belligerence and intransigence against the outside world. Before other countries, including the United States, jump to the conclusion that the Iranian presidential elections were fraudulent, with the grave consequences such charges could bring, they should consider all independent information. The fact may simply be that the re-election of President Ahmadinejad is what the Iranian people wanted.

Ken Ballen is president of Terror Free Tomorrow: The Center for Public Opinion, a nonprofit institute that researches attitudes toward extremism. Patrick Doherty is deputy director of the American Strategy Program at the New America Foundation. The groups' May 11-20 polling consisted of 1,001 interviews across Iran and had a 3.1 percentage point margin of error.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Gilligan's Island and the Mystery of the Immediate Need

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

The question was: *"What's the best business to start right now?"* The answer is: *"It all depends."*

Two people starting the same business, at the same time, in the same set of circumstances can have widely different levels of success based on their creativity, commitment and passion. The fact is, you can make money selling just about anything, to anyone, at any given time, whether boon, recession or depression.

Scenario 1: The Immediate Need

To make that point, let's imagine that you are an entrepreneur in the new paradigm, you are selling two products, and your customers are the residents of three different islands.

On island number one are the former crew and passengers of *the S.S. Minnow*, now stranded on Gilligan's Island. On the second island is Robinson Crusoe, before he encountered "Friday." On the third island is Chuck Noland, the Tom Hanks character from the movie *Castaway*.

The two products you are selling are (1) a five-star restaurant-prepared meal, and (2) cell phone service with a 10-minute time limit. Once a month, a plane flying overhead air drops a box by parachute containing a meal for each resident, or a pre-loaded phone card.

Now, let's ask a question. All other things being equal, and assuming that your three customer groups each have enough money for one, but not both of your products each month, what would they purchase?

I suggest that the inhabitants of all three islands would choose the cell phone service. It's the immediate need—to be rescued—that trumps all others.

Customer	Cell phone	Meal
Gilligan's Island	√	
Robinson Crusoe	√	
Tom Hanks	√	

Scenario 2: The Basic Need

Now, let's change the scenario. It's now a few months or years later, Robinson Crusoe has met "Friday." Tom Hanks has learned to fish. And, in addition, the castaways on all three islands are told that they cannot use the cell phone service to call for help. It can only be used to talk to someone, anyone for 10 minutes. Now how would that change things?

Tom Hanks, the only resident without someone to talk with, might still choose the cell phone service (he might be able to stop his wife from re-marrying).

With no rescue possible, however, we can assume that the Skipper, Mary Anne, Ginger, the Professor, Mr. & Mrs. Howell and Gilligan have enough people to talk to and may opt, instead, for the satisfaction of a type of meal they haven't had in a long time. Robinson Crusoe, now with a companion (albeit an enslaved servant) of his own, might also choose the meal. It's a basic need—food and pleasure—that has now become more important than the immediate need.

Customer	Cell phone	Meal
Gilligan's Island		√
Robinson Crusoe		√
Tom Hanks	√	

Scenario 3: The Luxury

New scenario. Now, let's suppose that all the residents actually don't want to leave their respective islands. They've made peace with their situations, and are now content to stay right where they are, talking with whomever they can, utilizing the natural resources, and eating whatever is natural and available on the island. Crusoe is planting corn, making pottery and raising goats. The Gilligan's island folks are making bicycles, stethoscopes, and pedal-powered cars out of bamboo.

So, you now add a third product to your list of offerings: an original Technicolor version of *Singing in the Rain* with Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds on DVD. Now what would they purchase with their limited monthly budgets?

There's no way to know for sure, but poor Tom Hanks, still companionless, save for Wilson the volleyball he's anthropomorphized and confided in, might forever want a lifetime subscription to your phone service.

The others, with nowhere else to go, and with their basic survival needs now met, Gilligan's crew and the Crusoe duo—perhaps alternating each month between luxury meals and entertainment—might choose the DVD. (Ginger, in fact, may have insisted that she needed some reminder of her glory days as a Hollywood actress).

Such a purchase of a relatively meaningless luxury represents a fantasy, an escape of sorts that has now become more desirable than even a basic or an immediate need. (I'm reminded of oft-cited statistics that hold that the film industry in India continues to boom despite—or more accurately, because of—the great number of people who live below the poverty line.)

Customer	Cell phone	Meal	DVD
Gilligan's Island			√
Robinson Crusoe			√
Tom Hanks	√		

Conclusion

So what's the point? You can draw whatever conclusions seem apparent to you (just don't ask silly questions like "where do they get the electricity to play the DVD?"). The bottom line is that if someone told you you could sell Gene Kelly DVDs to people stranded on a deserted island, you'd think they were crazy. Before today, you might have argued that food was a basic need and therefore, the most important thing for anyone stranded on a distant island, and the best business to get into. The truth, however, is that what will sell well to a given market will vary based on their immediate needs, their basic needs as much as their fantasies. The more you know about your customers' lifestyles, their goals, their individual and collective histories, their perceived future, even their sense of hope and despair, the more accurately you can predict what products and services will be important to them at a given time. And, while you're doing your research, a thorough analysis of these three classic tales of people adjusting to life in a new paradigm might prove enlightening and may give you some new ideas as you consider how to create an income stream that can survive the recession, and thrive in the coming years.

■ ■ ■

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

Note: Fans and followers of *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

***Note**: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

Letter to the Editor

The Garapan water supply dilemma

Hafa adai! I've been keeping up with the past and current events of the CNMI for over 30 years now. I believe it's about time to open up to the public something I have observed. Our Commonwealth leaders are not focusing their attention adequately on the problems the business community is facing. Our leaders are busy attracting outside investors and failed to adequately give enough attention to the ones that are doing business at the present time.

For the last 22 years or more, Garapan has never been adequately provided with sufficient, quality, and clean water. Now, more things are being added to the water problem. The government is now requiring some businesses to test their water wells. Testing used to be done every quarter of the year. Now it has been moved up to every month. Besides the testing, businesses are also required to have a representative from their organization be certified by DEQ in conducting such tests. Failure to comply with the new regulation will result in the business paying a fine, facing imprisonment, or a combination of both penalties.

The sad news about this is that the government has to be paid fees for the above activities, at the expense of the business organization. Businesses are already paying taxes such as BGRT, excise, IRS, and occupancy taxes. Therefore, all fees for testing water samples must stop and the government should be the one conducting the test and paying for the fees. We are taxpayers and we deserve good water supply 24 hours a day. Businesses have to concentrate on marketing strategies and not worrying about tests results of water samples. This is the main job of businesses, not collecting water samples!

We are in capitalistic society, not a communist society. The government must do something as soon as possible and leave the free enterprise system alone. Help the businesses and not punish them. The government should and must provide sufficient amount of quality, clean, and healthy water supply to businesses and the people living in Garapan. Twenty-two years is a long time to wait and more than enough time for our leaders to fix the water problem. Eight governors have passed us in CNMI history and the water situation in Garapan still remains as is! I have seen other areas on Saipan where the water supply has improved. Why is Garapan water so hard to fix? Is it because lesser votes apply? The government always complain of a lack of money yet it cannot take care of the goose that lays the golden egg. The Garapan area produces the most revenue for the CNMI and requires immediate attention. We need to protect the golden egg.

With the economic stimulus plan now in place, I hope that once and for all the above situation improves for the benefit of the Garapan people, the businesses and the tourists alike. To all my leaders, Garapan needs your help!

Thomas Aquino Cabrera Camacho
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Thank you

PAWS and Beautify CNMI would like to thank all those that attended the dog show this Saturday. It was a great event, which was made possible due to the generous donations and contributions made by the following persons and/or businesses (in alphabetical order):

- Angelo Villagomez
- Brad Ruszala
- Cinta Kaipat
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Eric and Tania David
- Expressions
- Fiesta Resort & Spa
- George Hasselbeck
- Gus Kaipat
- Hyatt Regency Saipan
- IT & E
- Jason Sablan of Price Costco
- Jason Tarkong
- Jeff Schorr
- KikBak
- Mike Tripp
- Moby Dick's Restaurant
- Pacific Islands Club Saipan
- Pacific Trading Inc.
- Palms Resort
- Patricia Garshak
- Price Costco
- Representative Edward Salas
- Retta Sue Hamilton
- Ron Smith
- Seafix
- The Kaipat Kids
- Taco Bell & KFC
- Trench Tech

And of course, we thank all of our volunteers—you know who you are!

PAWS would also like to thank HANMI for the $2,000 donation made for public outreach purposes. The money will be used to create and run weekly "Pet of the Week" advertisements on KSPN so we can place homeless animals in permanent and foster homes quickly. Thank you HANMI for helping PAWS make Saipan a better place to live and visit!

Katie Busenkell
PAWS President

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲84	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲84	▼78

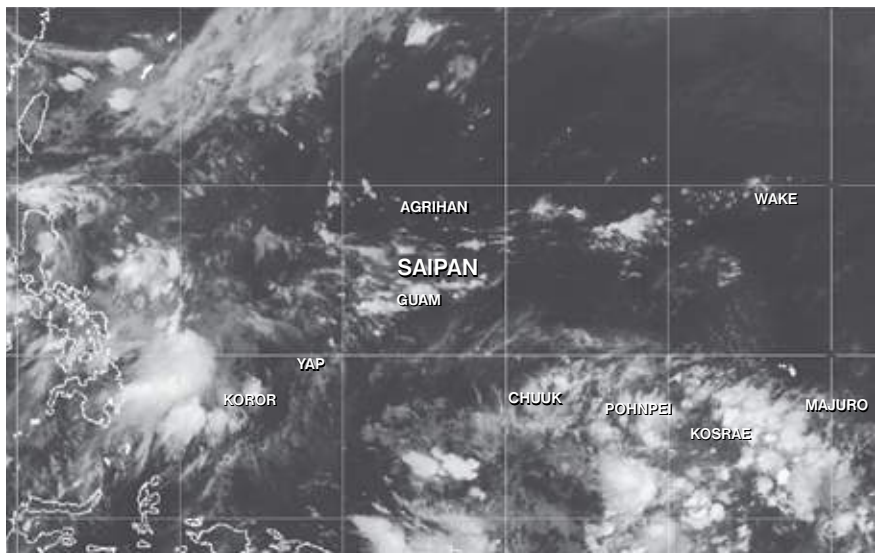
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲53	▼43
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲95	▼73
Hong Kong	Showers	▲86	▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼75
London	Showers	▲70	▼54
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲76	▼62
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼76
New York	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼58
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼68
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼60
Pusan	Showers	▲74	▼65
Rome	Cloudy	▲87	▼65
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼53
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼56
Seoul	Rain	▲75	▼61
Tokyo	Showers	▲73	▼66
Washington, DC	Showers	▲70	▼63

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:05 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
9:09 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
3:01 PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:18 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs southeastward from 14N130E to the north of Palau at 10N135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along and up to 400 miles south of this boundary. This area includes Koror. An upper-level trough north of Yap is enhancing scattered showers within 100 miles of a line from 10N140E to 15N137E. A surface trough extends southeastward from 3N144E to a weak circulation centered well southwest of Chuuk near 1N149E. Another surface trough runs from this circulation northeastward to 3N157E to southeastward to the equator at 162E. Low-level winds converging south of Chuuk and Pohnpei are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 5N150E to 4N155E to EQ161E and within 50 miles of a line from 7N153E to 5N158E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 9N160E to EQ173E. This area includes Kosrae.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:37 AM	1:14 PM
Thursday	1:16 AM	2:18 PM
Friday	1:58 AM	3:05 PM
Saturday	2:47 AM	4:08 PM
Sunday	3:42 AM	5:13 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Third annual flame tree photo contest opens

Flame Tree TV, parent company of The Local Channel 2 and The Visitor's Channel 3, is now accepting entries for the third annual Flame Tree Photography Contest.

"The Flame Trees are in full bloom and we are looking for photos that capture the trees and their natural beauty," said Flame Tree TV president Chris Nelson. "We encourage kids and adults to grab a digital camera and submit their best shots. We'll feature the best ones on Local and Visitor TV."

The photos should be taken on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota and will be judged on composition, style, originality, and overall impact. Winners will be announced on Liberation Day.

"Entries can be e-mailed or submitted in person, and we have some fun prizes for the winners," Nelson said.

Photographs must be submitted to Flame Tree TV via e-mail at flametreetv@gmail.com or delivered to Flame Tree TV offices on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, by July 3, 2008. There is a limit of five entries per person. Winning photos will be featured on the Local Channel 2 and The Visitor's Channel 3. Please include explanations of the photos when they are submitted.

Last year's winners were Steve Sablan and Leslie Ware. Sablan took the picture in his yard, while Ware took his winning shot up near the Last Command Post.

The Flame Tree TV and Production Company owns and operates The Japanese Visitor's Channel, The Korean Visitor's Channel, the Local News, and The Local Channel 2.

"The Visitor Channel" features where to go, what to do, and what to see when vacationing in the Marianas. Programming includes information about restaurants, spas, hotels, shopping, tours, diving, history, and culture in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

HANMI donates $2,000 to PAWS

On the heels of its May 2009 charity golf tournament, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands donated $2,000 over the weekend to support the work of Pet Assistance and Welfare Services, a non-profit animal welfare organization.

The donation was announced at the annual Best of Worst Dog Show held on Saturday, June 13, at airport field.

"PAWS has been selected as one of our beneficiaries this year because of the important work they perform with animals, which also benefits our local community and tourism industry," said HANMI Vice-Chairman Nick Nishikawa. "HANMI is pleased to support this volunteer-driven initiative in its work to control our stray animal population and reduce the sad and unpleasant occurrence of dead animals on island."

Other previous community initiatives supported by the hotel association include Crimestoppers, the Marianas Tourism Education Council, and construction of the Chinatown skate park.

"We're especially grateful to all our annual tournament sponsors and players, who help make these charitable donations possible," Nishikawa added.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the CNMI. ***(HANMI)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nick Nishikawa, vice chairman of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, left, presents a $2,000 charitable donation to Pet Assistance and Welfare Services president Katie Busenkell and PAWS webmaster Ron Smith during the Best of Worst Dog Show on June 13, 2009, at airport field.

Public meeting for upcoming Amnesty

The Division of Environmental Quality will hold an informational public meeting at 5pm this Thursday, June 18, 2009, about the upcoming Pesticide Amnesty.

"This amnesty is a collection of pesticide and related hazardous wastes that require disposal due to age, condition of containers, contamination, no labels unregistered or cancellation," said Reina Camacho, amnesty project coordinator. "If you are a farmer or work with pesticides such as golf courses, hotels, and termite and pest control businesses—this is a one time opportunity to properly dispose of you unused, unwanted pesticides and related hazardous wastes."

Previously, DEQ had advised that hazardous wastes permits will not be required to participate in this amnesty. Farmers and businesses that have questions are encouraged to attend the meeting to gain additional information about the amnesty.

The amnesty is scheduled for Thursday, July 16 on Saipan at the Kagman Agricultural Station; Friday, July 17, at the Sunset Villa building on Rota; and Saturday, July 18, on Tinian at the DPW fenced area.

For information, visit www.deq.gov.mp or call Camacho at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Saipan resident earns degree from HPU

HONOLULU—Juanet Santos Sablan, resident of Garapan, Saipan, was among over 900 students who received associate, baccalaureate, or master degrees at Hawaii Pacific University's 72nd commencement ceremony held May 13, 2009, at the Waikiki Shell.

Sablan received a bachelor's degree in Human Resource Development.

Hawaii Pacific University is the states largest private university with more than 8,000 students from all 50 states and more than 100 countries.

HPU is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the Council on Social Work Education, and the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. ***(PR)***

Student club adopts beach, removes 380 lbs of trash

Kagman High School's Marine Biology Club removed 380 lbs of debris from Marine Beach last Saturday, June 13.

The student organization signed up with the Division of Environmental Quality to adopt Marine Beach and held their first cleanup last weekend. They also planted a Plumeria tree as a symbol of their commitment to resource conservation.

Many other community organizations have also signed up to adopt a beach through DEQ. Families or organizations interested in doing the same may contact Joe Kaipat or Reina Camacho at DEQ at 664-8500. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Biology Club members pose around the newly planted Plumeria tree at Marine Beach, their newly adopted beach. Also in the photo is Division of Environmental Quality's Jose Kaipat, who assisted the students in disposing of the garbage to the Department of Public Works transfer station.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Maryann Taitano Kaipat and happy wedding anniversary to Meng and Joe Khadaffy Kaipat! Greetings come all the way from Washington's Oak Harbor. Fom Tilde, Toby and kids.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Youth development programs set

DCCA-Division of Youth Services will be hosting Cycle 6 of its *Man'Amko Yan Manhoben* Youth Development Program and Mentorship—Summer Program.

Cycle 6: Man Amko Yan Man Hoben Mentorship Program—First Session (Awaodori Cultural Dance) in partnership with the Saipan Awaodori Team from June 19 to July 2, Monday through Friday, at the Tanapag Youth Center from 3pm to 5pm

Cycle 6: Man Amko Yan Man Hoben Mentorship Program—Second Session (Vocational Arts/Phonics & Reading/ Joeten Public Library—Bookmobile/ Basic Korean Language/Sports/Career Awareness) from July 6 to September 6, Monday through Friday, at the Tanapag Youth Center from 9am to 2pm

This program will only accept the first 100 registered children and youth ages 5 years to 17 years old. Registration is from Monday through Thursday, June 15-18, at the Tanapag Center. Ask for Debra A. Inos, Youth Development Program manager, or contact her at 287-2773/322-0046/4 from 9am to 2pm. ***(PR)***

Marianas High School schedule

June 22 4th Quarter Report Card Distribution, 8am-12pm and 1-4pm (please pick up report cards at the Main Office)

Sept. 8First Day of Classes (students return to school)

Korean language school at NMC

The Korean Cultural Center is opening Korean Language School as a program of Community Development Institute of the Northern Marianas College. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn Korean language.

The promotional fee is only $60 for 6 weeks. Korean culture is included in the curriculum. Basic materials are provided. This course is of basic plus intermediate level. When requested, certificates are awarded. It begins at 6:30pm on June 19, 2009. Classes will be on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Come and register now! If you don't have time to go to Building P at the NMC campus during work hours, just call and they will provide help. There can be some scholarship. Contact Daniel Huh at 285-2221or e-mail: korean2221@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Prior service checks delayed

The Prior Service Trust Fund Administration would like to advise all beneficiaries that benefits for May and July 2009 will be delayed due to insufficient grant money. We will pay these months when money becomes available. We apologize for this inconvenience and appreciate your patience. ***(PR)***

Business

PHOTOS By: HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
3,957.900
Down 72.500
(-1.80%)

HONG KONG
18,165.50
Down 333.46
(-1.80%)

JAKARTA
2,015.254
Down 54.621
(-2.64%)

TOKYO
9,752.88
Down 286.79
(-2.86%)

K. LUMPUR
1,091.17
Up 1.02
(0.09%)

MANILA
2,514.17
Down 98.68
(-3.78%)

SINGAPORE
2,287.66
Down 28.90
(-1.25%)

SEOUL
1,399.15
Down 13.27
(-0.94%)

BANGKOK
594.84
Down 17.08
(-2.79%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
8,612.13
-187.13

NASDAQ
1,816.38
0.00

S&P
923.72
0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2574
British Pound	0.6120
Canadian Dollar	1.1299
Chinese Renminbi	6.8338
Euro	0.7216
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7505
Indian Rupee	47.8320
Indonesian Rupiah	10,213.7500
Japanese Yen	96.4500
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5246
New Zealand Dollar	1.5802
Philippine Peso	48.2750
Singapore Dollar	1.4574
South Korean Won	1,256.7500
Swiss Franc	1.0881
Taiwan Dollar	32.8790
Thailand Baht	34.1470

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Administration calls for financial system overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP)—Aiming for greater limits and more clarity in the nation's financial system, the Obama administration on Monday proposed adding muscle to the Federal Reserve and new restrictions on complex securities whose collapse choked lending and hit millions of American households.

At the same time, the administration gingerly sidestepped some regulatory changes, leaving aspects of the politically charged work for Congress, which must approve the proposed blueprint.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said the regulatory overhaul will eliminate "gaps" in the financial system that encouraged risky behavior leading up to the meltdown.

Under the administration's plan, all large institutions whose failure could threaten the stability of the financial system would be supervised by the Fed. That sets up a potential clash with some key lawmakers who believe the Fed is overtaxed and unaccountable to Congress.

"I just think we're heaping too much on the Federal Reserve," said Rep. Paul Kanjorski, D-Pa., a member of the House Financial Services Committee.

Obama's plan would create a council of regulators responsible for broad coordination across the financial system. Administration officials said it also would offer a stronger framework for investor protection. Industry officials expect the administration to propose a consumer protection entity to oversee products ranging from credit cards to annuities.

"We had a financial system that was fundamentally too unstable and fragile, and it did a bad job of basic protection of consumers and investors," Geithner said during an economic conference in New York hosted by Time Warner Inc. "Those are things we have to change."

The administration's regulatory proposals were previewed in an opinion piece by Geithner and Lawrence Summers, director of the president's National Economic Council, in Monday's Washington Post. Further details were obtained from Treasury and industry officials who have been discussing the regulatory overhaul with the administration. President Barack Obama will unveil the proposals in a speech Wednesday and Geithner will testify Thursday before Congress.

Obama appears to have backed away from a more extensive overhaul that would have consolidated all banking regulation into one agency. Supporters of this approach, including Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., have argued that the current system is inefficient.

AP

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner speaks at Time Warner headquarters in New York, Monday, June 15, 2009.

A new role as 'risk regulator' could reshape Fed

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration's plan to revamp regulation and prevent any more crashes like those that felled AIG and Lehman Brothers includes a bold new idea: Empower the Federal Reserve to oversee the biggest financial players whose failure could threaten other institutions and the economy.

But some lawmakers and economists say making the Fed a "systemic risk regulator" would itself be a high-stakes risk that would distract from its core mission: reviving the economy.

They say the Fed shares blame for the financial crisis that erupted last fall. Along with other regulators, it failed to crack down on risky mortgages and lax lending standards that ignited the crisis.

Unless the Fed improved its oversight abilities, "giving the Fed more responsibility at this point is like a parent giving his son a bigger and faster car right after he crashed the family station wagon," said Mark Williams, professor of finance and economics at Boston University and a former Fed bank examiner.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Lawrence Summers, head of the White House's National Economic Council, said in an opinion piece published Monday in the Washington Post that the Fed would become a "systemic risk regulator" for "large, interconnected firms whose failure could threaten the stability of the system."

They also would create a council of regulators, Geithner and Summers wrote. These regulators—which weren't identified—would serve as extra eyes and ears to help the Fed oversee financial products.

Witnesses to testify in trial of former AIG CEO

NEW YORK (AP)—Witnesses begin testifying Tuesday in the civil trial of American International Group Inc.'s former top executive, accused of plundering an AIG retirement program of billions of dollars.

Attorney Theodore Wells told jurors Monday in Manhattan that former Chief Executive Officer Maurice "Hank" Greenberg improperly took $4.3 billion in stock from the company in 2005, after he was ousted by the company amid investigations of accounting irregularities.

"Hank Greenberg was mad. He was angry," Wells said in U.S. District Court of the emotional state of the man who, over a 35-year-career, built AIG from a small company into the world's largest insurance provider. He said the saga is a story of "anger, betrayal and cover-up."

Wells said that Greenberg, within weeks of being forced out in mid-2005, gave the go-ahead for tens of millions of shares to be sold from a trust fund. The fund was set up decades ago to provide incentive bonuses to a select group of AIG management and highly compensated employees that they would receive upon their retirement.

Wells showed the jury several clips of Greenberg speaking on videotape about the responsibilities of the trust fund. He called it Greenberg's "videotaped confession."

Wells asked the jury to award AIG $4.276 billion and 185 million AIG shares.

Greenberg, 84, has contended through his lawyers that he had the right to sell the shares because they were owned by Starr International, a privately held company he controlled.

Greenberg's lawyer, David Boies, told the jury in his opening statement that the shares sold by his client did not belong to AIG.

Government, automaker aid keeps parts makers alive

DETROIT (AP)—Government aid and timely payments by General Motors, Ford and Chrysler have held off the predicted collapse of the nation's auto parts supply base, but industry officials say more bankruptcies are coming as the effects of Detroit's temporary factory closures continue to ripple through the economy.

Hundreds of companies large and small across the country make everything from bolts to axles to transmissions, shipping them to Detroit Three factories as well as those of foreign automakers with U.S. plants.

Some supply parts to makers of larger components, creating a chain of companies that many thought would snap if payments were interrupted to firms already under extreme financial stress because of the U.S. auto sales slump.

While there have been about 20 supplier bankruptcies so far this year, most suppliers have managed to hang on despite Chrysler Group LLC and General Motors Corp. entering bankruptcy protection and shuttering their factories for weeks to keep inventory under control.

"There was not the Armageddon that could have been there," Chip McClure, chairman and CEO of supplier ArvinMeritor Inc., which makes parts for cars and heavy trucks.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Madoff victims describe pain of fraud to judge

NEW YORK (AP)—More than 100 victims of failed financier Bernard Madoff's multibillion-dollar fraud urged a judge Monday to sentence him harshly, saying he ruined their lives, leaving many of them depressed, bitter and hopeless. "Please don't let his brilliant criminal mind loose to do it again," Steve Norton pleaded in a letter to the judge after describing how he lost $1.1 million in retirement money. "He took the rest of our lives. Don't give him his back." Kathleen Bignell of Gunnison, Colo., said she told her 89-year-old father he cannot die because she no longer has money to bury him. She said Madoff "ought to be able to look forward to just exactly what he has done to us. No hope, no future and no forgiveness."

Oil skids to $70 on economic recovery concerns

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices skidded to near $70 as investors mulled whether a three-month rally went too far, too fast amid high supplies and weak demand. Benchmark crude for July delivery fell 57 cents to $70.04 a barrel by midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Monday, it fell $1.42 to settle at $70.62 Oil has doubled since March on expectations the worst of the global economic slowdown is over. But bad economic news could puncture investor optimism. An index of New York manufacturing released the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on Monday indicated that demand weakened in June.

Exxon told to pay interest on Alaska spill award

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Exxon Mobil Corp. was ordered Monday to pay about $500 million in interest on punitive damages for the Exxon Valdez oil spill off Alaska, nearly doubling the payout to Alaska Natives, fishermen, business owners and others harmed by the 1989 disaster. The ruling was issued by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. In June 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court set punitive damages at $507.5 million. But two months later, the high court declined to decide whether Exxon Mobil must pay interest on the punitive damages awarded in the nation's worst oil spill and instead sent it back to the appeals court. Monday's decision would double the average payout of about $15,000 for the nearly 33,000 claimants.

Nation

Obama presses doctors to back health care overhaul

CHICAGO (AP)—President Barack Obama bluntly told doctors Monday he is against their highest legislative priority—limiting malpractice awards—and earned a smattering of boos from an audience he was here to court for his health care overhaul plans.

Pushing anew to reshape the nation's health care delivery system and extend coverage to the millions who don't have it, Obama went before the annual meeting of the American Medical Association and took on others who take issue with parts of his plan as well.

Calling them "naysayers," "fear-mongers" and peddlers of "Trojan horse" falsehoods, Obama warned interest groups, lobbyists and others against using "fear tactics to paint any effort to achieve reform as an attempt to socialize medicine."

"There are those who will try and scuttle this opportunity no matter what," Obama said.

GOP Rep. Tom Price of Georgia—a former orthopedic surgeon—reacted preemptively to Obama's speech by accusing him of seeking a "government takeover" of health care. Speaking to reporters on a conference call organized by the Republican National Committee, Price said a committee that Obama's administration has established to study the effectiveness of various medical treatments would turn into a "rationing board" to overrule doctors and deny patients care.

AP

President Barack Obama address the American Medical Association during their annual meeting in Chicago, Monday, June 15, 2009.

And Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., and other Republicans introduced legislation to ban the rationing of care on such a basis.

The economic stimulus legislation that passed over the winter provides funding for "comparative effectiveness research," and the GOP proposal would block the government from using the results to "deny coverage of an item or service" in a federal health care program.

Addressing the doctors in Chicago, the president said for the first time publicly that health care reform, including covering the almost 50 million Americans who have no insurance, would cost about $1 trillion over 10 years.

"That's real money, even in Washington," he said. "But remember: That's less than we are projected to have spent on the war in Iraq. And also remember: Failing to reform our health care system in a way that genuinely reduces cost growth will cost us trillions of dollars more in lost economic growth and lower wages."

Aides had said previously that the administration wants to keep the cost around $1 trillion, while also acknowledging it might go higher. Obama has taken steps in recent days to outline where money could be found.

He wants to cut federal payments to hospitals by about $200 billion and cut $313 billion from Medicare and Medicaid over 10 years. He also is proposing a $635 billion in tax increases and spending cuts in the health care system as a "down payment" for his plan.

The president traveled to Chicago to talk to the 250,000-physician group in hopes of persuading doctors not to fight him on reform. The nation's doctors, like many other groups, are divided over the president's proposals. Many are skeptical of his plan to create government-sponsored insurance as an option alongside private coverage.

They also want limits on jury awards in medical malpractice lawsuits—caps that Democrats, including Obama, have long opposed and Republicans led by former President George W. Bush long pushed for.

Obama drew hearty applause with a focus on the particular concerns of the medical profession: telling them any system that relies on them "to be bean-counters and paper-pushers" is out of whack and that his push to investigate best-practices and eliminate unnecessary procedures "is not about dictating what kind of care should be provided."

High court won't review 'Cuban 5' espionage case

MIAMI (AP)—Cuban exiles said Monday they were relieved the Supreme Court refused to review the convictions of five intelligence agents for the communist country, despite calls from Nobel Prize winners and international legal groups to consider the case.

The convictions stand against the so-called "Cuban Five," who maintain they did not receive a fair trial because of strong anti-Castro sentiment in Miami. The men have been lionized as heroes in Cuba. Exile groups say they were justly punished.

The five—Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labanino (aka Luis Medina), Rene Gonzalez, Antonio Guerrero and Fernando Gonzalez (aka Ruben Campa)—were convicted in 2001 of being unregistered foreign agents. Three also were found guilty of conspiracy to obtain military secrets from the U.S. Southern Command headquarters.

Hernandez was convicted of murder conspiracy in the deaths of four pilots, members of the Miami-based Brothers to the Rescue organization, who were shot down by Cuban fighter jets in 1996 off the island's coast. The group sought to identify and help migrants leaving Cuba by sea. The Cuban government maintains the planes violated its airspace to scatter political pamphlets over the island.

Richard Klugh, a Miami-based attorney for the five, said he was disappointed. He and other attorneys were reviewing their options.

Brothers to the Rescue President Jose Basulto, the sole survivor of the shooting, said the Supreme Court did the right thing.

"Those four young men didn't deserve to die like that," said Basulto, a veteran of the failed 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion. "Fine, I'm a sworn enemy of Cuba, but those men weren't."

Basulto said the Cuban government relies on spies like the Cuban Five—and most recently retired State Department officer Walter Kendall Myers and his wife—for information it can use or trade. The Myerses were arrested June 4 in Washington on charges they spied for Havana for three decades.

"This is a business they have," Basulto said. "If you're a spy, you're a spy. You've got to pay the consequencnes."

Post-WWII immigration files to be opened to public

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Millions of files containing detailed information about U.S. immigrants—including their spouses' names, as well as personal photographs and letters—will soon become available to the public through a federal facility in suburban Kansas City.

Preservationists had been worried that the documents providing an important picture of immigration after 1944 would be lost because the federal government considered them temporary and could have destroyed them after 75 years.

But a deal signed this month between the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the National Archives and Records Administration preserves all 53 million files. About 21 million will be sent to the National Archives and made available in batches to genealogists, families and others.

"It's a big deal because basically at this point they could have just incinerated them all," said Jennie Lew, a spokeswoman for Save Our National Archives, a San Francisco-based group that worked to preserve the files. "And these give a fuller picture of those that were allowed to immigrate later in American history."

The U.S. has been "very good at preserving the records of the Puritans and western Europeans ... but you'd miss the whole history of those" who came to the U.S. later if the A-files weren't kept, she said.

Some files contain items such as Chinese wedding scrolls or the locations of family homes, said Jeanie Low, another SONA spokeswoman.

NC plant workers to 911: 'ConAgra just blew up'

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Emergency tapes released Monday show workers dialed 911 in a frenzy after escaping an explosion that killed three workers at a Slim Jim processing plant, with one panicked woman telling dispatchers: "ConAgra just blew up!"

The 15 audio tapes portray the early moments after the blast rocked the sprawling facility in Garner, a few miles south of Raleigh, where 300 people were working. Some callers tried to describe the situation as sirens blared and people screamed in the background, and responders struggled to understand the unfolding scene.

"ConAgra just blew up!" said one employee, referring the plant's operator.

"What do you mean it blew up?" the dispatcher asked.

"It blew up! We need some help!" the woman responded.

Callers reported people bleeding profusely and suffering severe burns while they watched others escape the facility. The blast killed three workers and injured dozens of others. Four remain in critical condition with extensive burns.

"Oh my God. This is horrible," one man said.

"Oh Lord, have mercy. What in the world happened?" another woman said during her call.

A few callers stayed calm. One man described the size of a section of the building that collapsed and softly said there were probably people still inside.

"Send whatever you got, buddy," he told the dispatcher.

Federal investigators have blamed a natural gas leak for the explosion at the ConAgra Foods Inc. Killed in the explosion were Barbara McLean Spears, 43, of Dunn, and two Clayton residents: Rachel Mae Poston Pulley, 67, and Lewis Junior Watson, 33.

Daniel Horowitz, a U.S. Chemical Safety Board spokesman, said Monday that the blast site was still hazardous and was hindering investigators.

ACROSS THE NATION

Judge says museum suspect can't appear in court

WASHINGTON (AP)—A white supremacist accused of fatally shooting a security guard at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is in no condition to appear in court, a federal judge ruled Monday. James von Brunn, 88, was shot in the face by guards who returned his fire last week and is still hospitalized. FBI officials have said he is likely to survive. After a brief private conversation with prosecutors and the defense, U.S. Magistrate Judge John Facciola said at a hearing that he had determined that it would not be possible for von Brunn to have an initial appearance in the next week, either at the courthouse or in his hospital room. Von Brunn has been charged with first-degree murder in the death of 39-year-old Stephen T. Johns, who was black. Authorities say von Brunn shot the guard in the chest with a vintage rifle after Johns opened the door for him.

8-year-old Ky. boy found dead in church elevator

STURGIS, Ky. (AP)—The body of an 8-year-old boy was found with his head pinned in a church elevator as his family was cleaning up after his grandmother's wedding reception, authorities said Monday.

No foul play is suspected in the death Saturday of Zachary Waddell at First Christian Church in Sturgis, Kentucky State Police said in a statement. The church's pastor, the Rev. Nate Harper, found the boy's body in the doorway at the lower level of the shaft connecting the church's first and second floors, authorities said. Union County Coroner Stephen Shouse said the boy died as a result of compression asphyxia, meaning he couldn't breathe after the elevator came down on him. He said the elevator was purchased in 1963 and is similar to a freight elevator. The Evansville (Ind.) Courier & Press reported that Shouse is a distant cousin of the boy's mother.

Attorney defends trooper in Okla. ambulance stop

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Bothered that an ambulance driver failed to yield to him as he raced to provide backup on a call—and angered further when he thought the driver flipped him an obscene gesture—state Trooper Daniel Martin decided to stop the ambulance and give the driver a piece of his mind. What Martin didn't know then, his lawyer said Monday, was that there was a patient in the back of the ambulance. "He's not this ogre, this depriver of people's rights," the trooper's attorney, Gary James, said. "He's a good man."

Asia

Pakistan commander warns against collateral damage

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's military chief denounced terrorists as enemies of the country and Islam, but warned his officers Monday to avoid killing civilians as they widen their operations against the Taliban.

The government is seeking to capitalize on general public support for its six-week-old offensive in the Swat Valley region and open a new front in a nearby lawless tribal zone where al-Qaida and the Taliban are entrenched.

The military action is being welcomed by the United States as a strong stand against militants after years of failed offensives and striking deals rather than confronting Taliban hardliners head-on.

But the politically weak government is also keenly aware that public support could sour if civilian casualties become heavy or if the task of resettling more than 2 million refugees displaced by fighting in the northwest is badly handled.

A top official in the northwest said Sunday that the government had given the order to send the military after Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud. The announcement was interpreted as effectively giving the go-ahead for a fresh military offensive in Waziristan, the semiautonomous tribal region on the border with Afghanistan that is rumored to be a hiding place of Osama bin Laden and where Mehsud makes his base.

The military reportedly closed key roads leading into the area on Monday, but there was no immediate sign of fighting.

In a carefully stage-managed event Monday, selected television outlets taped armed forces chief Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani dressed in a tight-fitting flight suit clambering into the copilot's seat of an F-16 fighter-bomber before taking off for a flight over the Swat Valley.

US Gen. McChrystal takes command in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP)—Gen. Stanley McChrystal, a former top special operations commander, took charge of nearly 90,000 U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan on Monday, telling them they must protect Afghan civilians from all kinds of violence. McChrystal takes over the Afghan campaign at a critical moment: violence, troop levels and U.S. military deaths have all hit record highs, and President Hamid Karzai has increased pressure on U.S. forces to prevent civilian deaths.

Seeking to shake up the direction of the war, Defense Secretary Robert Gates sent McChrystal to lead the 42-nation effort in Kabul in the middle of U.S. Gen. David McKiernan's two-year assignment, effectively ending the career of a four-star general whom McChrystal called a "fellow soldier and friend."

McChrystal is expected to take a more unconventional approach to the increasingly violent campaign in Afghanistan, relying on decades of experience with special operators—elite military units like Navy SEALs and Army's Delta Force that carry out dangerous and secretive missions.

Speaking before several hundred troops at a ceremony filled with colorful flags and a military band at a heavily fortified base in central Kabul, McChrystal said the international mission "must recapture the excitement and inspiration that ignited this country" after the 2001 fall of the Taliban regime.

N. Korea holds rally to condemn UN sanctions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Tens of thousands of North Koreans rallied in Pyongyang on Monday to condemn the U.N. rebuke of the country's latest nuclear test amid concern the communist regime could conduct another one.

The U.S. and South Korea are scrutinizing 11 underground sites across North Korea where it could conduct a third nuclear test, based on intelligence it may do so in protest of the U.N. Security Council sanctions, Seoul's JoongAng Ilbo newspaper reported earlier Monday.

Tension on the Korean peninsula spiked after the North declared Saturday it would accelerate its nuclear bomb-making program by producing more plutonium and uranium, two key ingredients.

The North also threatened war with any country that tries to stop its ships on the high seas as part of new Security Council sanctions passed in response to Pyongyang's May 25 nuclear test. It conducted its first test in 2006.

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak departed for summit talks in Washington on Tuesday with President Barack Obama that are expected to be dominated by the North's nuclear and missile programs.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China-US naval incident part of a rising trend

BEIJING (AP)—China has called the latest collision between Chinese and U.S. naval vessels an accident, but many of the elements echo previous altercations that have raised concerns that China's navy is growing increasingly aggressive in its patrols of the waters off its coast. In last week's incident, as before, a Chinese submarine was found to be shadowing a U.S. Navy ship—possibly undetected by sonar equipment being towed behind the American destroyer. The South China Sea, where the collision occurred and where the U.S. Navy operates amid a complex patchwork of competing territorial claims, is also a familiar backdrop for such incidents.

China Communist Party newspaper to expand coverage

BEIJING (AP)—The ruling Chinese Communist Party's official newspaper, the People's Daily, is expanding its coverage as part of a reported multibillion-dollar drive to expand China's international media influence. The staid daily that chronicles the activities of the party leadership and publishes editorials praising official policies plans to expand from 16 to 20 pages with more coverage of breaking and international news, it said in a notice on its Web site Tuesday. The newspaper's 72 foreign and domestic bureaus will be upgraded, it said, without giving details.

Report: Son of NKorean leader visits China

TOKYO (AP)—The youngest son—and heir apparent—of North Korea's ailing leader Kim Jong Il secretly visited China last week and met with President Hu Jintao, a top Japanese newspaper reported Tuesday. The Chinese leader urged 26-year-old Kim Jong Un to have North Korea refrain from carrying out further nuclear and missile tests, the Asahi newspaper said, quoting unnamed North Korean sources in Beijing. The trip took place around June 10, the report said. Kim Jong Un was accompanied by senior officials, including his aide.

World

State radio: 7 killed in Tehran clashes

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's state radio reported Tuesday that clashes in the Iranian capital the previous night left seven people dead after an "unauthorized gathering" following a mass rally over alleged election fraud.

The seven were killed in shooting that erupted after protesters in western Tehran "tried to attack a military location," the radio said, providing no details.

It was the first official confirmation of Monday's fatalities in Tehran's Azadi Square, where witnesses had seen at least one person shot dead and several others seriously wounded by gunfire from a compound for volunteer militia linked to Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard.

The deaths also were the first known in Tehran since rioting and protests broke out after last week's disputed elections—raising the prospect of possibility of further defiance and anger from crowds claiming the vote was rigged in favor of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Another protest march is planned later Tuesday.

The shootings occurred after hundreds of thousands of people supporting opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi defied an official ban on the march and gathered to protest fraud in last week's election.

AP

A man lies the back of a truck after being seriously injured by gunfire in an area where militia were firing shots at a rally supporting Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's top opponent on Monday, June 15, 2009.

Speed of Iran vote count called suspicious

CAIRO (AP)—How do you count almost 40 million handwritten paper ballots in a matter of hours and declare a winner? That's a key question in Iran's disputed presidential election.

International polling experts and Iran analysts said the speed of the vote count, coupled with a lack of detailed election data normally released by officials, was fueling suspicion around President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's landslide victory.

Iran's supreme leader endorsed the hard-line president's re-election the morning after Friday's vote, calling it a "divine assessment" and appearing to close the door on challenges from Iran's reformist camp. But on Monday, after two days of rioting in the streets, he ordered an investigation into the allegations of fraud.

WORLD BRIEFS

Obama says Italy will take 3 Guantanamo detainees

WASHINGTON (AP)—Italy has agreed to accept three detainees from Guantanamo Bay, President Barack Obama said Monday, as the administration continues its struggle to find homes for the prisoners so the facility can be shut down early next year. Speaking after an Oval Office meeting with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, Obama praised the leader for supporting U.S. efforts to close Guantanamo, saying his assistance "is very important to us." Working to fulfill his pledge to shutter the prison, Obama has been pressing foreign allies to take some of the detainees. His efforts to have some of the prisoners released in the U.S. or sent to American facilities have been stymied by stiff opposition from members of Congress.

Puppy survives after 'flush' with death

LONDON (AP)—A British pup had a narrow flush with disaster after his 4-year-old master decided to give him a bath in the toilet. Daniel Blair was quoted as telling Britain's Daily Mirror tabloid that he tried to clean the muddy 1-week-old cocker spaniel because he was muddy, and he flushed him down the drain. His mother Alison was quoted as saying she thought the dog was dead, but a drainage firm was able to locate the beleaguered animal in a pipe 20 yards away from the house using specialist camera gear. Pictures of the wet, frightened-looking puppy trapped in a pipe were posted to the firm Dyno-Rod's Web site and broadcast on British television Monday. The company says the dog is now fine.

3 foreign women dead in Yemen, al-Qaida suspected

SAN'A, Yemen (AP)—Shepherds found the mutilated bodies on Monday of two German nurses and a South Korean teacher who were kidnapped while picnicking in an area of Yemen known as a hideout for al-Qaida. Experts said the killings bore the hallmarks not of local tribesmen but of jihadist militants who had returned home after fighting in conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere. The dead women disappeared in the remote northern province of Saada Friday while on an outing with six other foreigners, including a German doctor, his wife and their three young children. The whereabouts of the six were unknown, the Yemeni government said.

Campus Life

Alfred Ada: The voice of high school principals

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Alfred Ada, the representative of high school principals in the CNMI Public School System, shares with *Saipan Tribune* the important role he and other school principals play in the successful implementation of student learning in all public schools.

***Saipan Tribune*: How many years you've been the secondary school principals' rep? And how important is this position to every public school educator in the CNMI?**

Ada: I have been a secondary school representative for one year. I was an elementary school representative in SY Year 2003-2004 when I was an elementary school principal. This position is not an inherited or an appointed position. It is voted amongst all the colleagues in the beginning of each school year. It is important to the PSS Leadership Team because it is the voice of the principals. The principal rep sits in during the weekly PSS-COE Leadership Team meetings. When we need to meet, the principal representative is tasked to organize and communicate with all the other principals.

***Saipan Tribune*: What specific issues do secondary school principals face these days and how are you dealing with all these issues?**

Ada: There are many issues facing secondary school principals: suspensions, dropout rates, graduation rates, class credit requirements, technology, distance education, school reform, budget, end of course assessment and the most recent American Recovery and Reinvestment Act or the stimulus package, etc. …We deal with them carefully. When secondary principals last had a meeting, we discussed the suspension data that was presented to us. Many of us disagreed with the reporting of the data. It makes us more cautious on how we report to the central office and we need to be more accurate and particular on the data. For example, quarterly suspensions of schools need to be noted if some of these are repeat offenders or students receiving special services.

The ARRA stimulus fund will be a great help for PSS because it brings forth the funds that is much needed. For example, if we have more funds to hire, we can perhaps plan to hire personnel and create an in-school suspension [for students].

***Saipan Tribune*: What are your basic functions?**

Ada: My basic function is to be the voice at the leadership team meeting. When principals encounter an unusual situation dealing with students and/or teachers that is not clear in the CNMI BOE school board policy, I relay the situation at the meeting so we can discuss it. Next, I give feedback to the principal that is inquiring.

***Saipan Tribune*: Any specific goals you want to achieve as high school principals' rep?**

Ada: One of my specific goal as a school representative is to write specific duties and responsibilities. This will help the next representative, especially if this role is very new to them. The expectation needs to be created by the principals and hopefully implemented.

***Saipan Tribune*: Which do you think is the more challenging role: elementary school principal or high school principal? Why?**

Ada: High school principalship is more challenging. Many of the situations that I encounter in high school are so related to law school cases. It is so fascinating to learn that the current situation at the school is related to a case that happened 50 years ago. In my opinion, high school has not changed since 20 years ago when I graduated. Many of the adolescent issues still occur these days, except that I know better now (*laughs*).

***Saipan Tribune*: As a principal, what are some of the things you would like to see more off?**

Ada: As you know, a principal's job is very challenging most of the time. The Commissioner of Education has made it known that we need to "reenergize and refocus" frequently. I want to see more time to gather and retreat quarterly so we can regain the energy to meet the responsibilities of our calling.

***Saipan Tribune*: Between principals in elementary and high school, who do you think has more responsibilities?**

Ada: They equally have the same responsibilities. A safe and orderly campus is always important. Promoting high student achievement is always accounted for. Quality personnel are more of a challenge at the high school because we don't have a producing institution to meet the demands, unlike elementary schools.

***Saipan Tribune*: Recommendations, expectations for the CNMI's educational system?**

Ada: I expect that the school system will improve greatly since we are paying more closely to student data—from academics to discipline data and family involvement.

I recommend that if students are defiant in school, parents must be required to attend monthly PTA meetings in order for the student to be admitted back. If this happens, students and parents are held responsible for all the infractions and payback time.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School's K-3 and K-5 graduates joyfully sing their graduation song, *Glowing Inside*.

TOP HONORS
Mikee Mame N. Mendoza is the Kindergarten 5 Class Valedictorian of Green Meadow School Batch 2009. She is shown here with her proud dad Marvin, left, teacher Sony Natividad, her Mom Narmie, Marilyn Divino, and Green Meadow School board member Saturnino Songcuan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan is surrounded by the graduating class as she speaks about this year's 6th commencement exercises theme: "The joy in our journey to learning: Wisdom, knowledge and understanding."

From left, Ador Songcuan, press secretary Charles Reyes Jr., Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan and Green Meadow School president Mila Merjilla congratulate K-5 graduate Natalie Jane Hirshbein and her proud dad, Barry Hirshbein, during the school's 6th commencement exercises on May 29, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Christian Dean Palattao, Green Meadow School's Kinder 5 Class Salutatorian, poses with his mom Shirley during the 6th commencement exercises held on May 29, 2009. at the Multi-Purpose Center.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2371 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-GOV-111

Susupe Major League Baseball Park Renovations

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Susupe Major League Baseball Park Renovations, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Thursday, June 18, 2009 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill. A $100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by the CNMI and Federal laws.

There will be a mandatory Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on June 29, 2009, 9:00 a.m., local time, at the project site, Tan Ko Palacios Baseball Field, Susupe. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on July 01, 2009 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director, Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or fax (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB09-GOV-111"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, July 07, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 4:00 p.m. local time July 07, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 07, 2009 and must be received no later than July 16, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 17, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 07, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred twenty **(120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars **($250.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by one hundred twenty (120) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Life & Style

Michael Douglas to receive Lifetime Achievement Award

By SUSAN KING
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Michael Douglas is being honored by the American Film Institute with a Life Achievement Award, which his father also earned.

HOLLYWOOD—Like father, like son.

Michael Douglas will step into his father's shoes on Thursday night when he receives the 37th annual American Film Institute Life Achievement Award; Kirk Douglas received the same award in 1991.

The echoes don't end there. Like his father, Michael has made a name for himself both as an actor and filmmaker. Both either appeared in or produced—and sometimes both—some of the most memorable films of their times; "Spartacus," "Champion" and "Lust for Life" for the dad and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Fatal Attraction" and "Wall Street" for the son.

Though he missed his father's AFI tribute—"I don't know where I was at the time," admitted Douglas—both his parents are coming to his, which will be held on a soundstage at Sony Studios. "I get thrilled thinking they are going to be there."

The bond between the 64-year-old Michael and his 92-year-old father has never been stronger. Douglas believes that since his father's near-fatal helicopter crash and debilitating stroke last decade, Kirk has become more nurturing.

"He's (Kirk) doing his books and his one-man show with a spiritualty that didn't exist before," says Michael. (His dad's show premiered, appropriately enough, at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City.) He added that his father has more time to be a parent now. "He was doing five pictures year, working all the time," he recalls of his childhood.

The son was no slouch either. Douglas made a handful of movies before he became a TV star in the 1970s with the hit detective series "The Streets of San Francisco," with Karl Malden. While working on "Streets," he produced 1975's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," which won the best picture Oscar.

He won a best actor Oscar for 1987's "Wall Street" and bared more than his soul in such controversial thrillers as 1987's "Fatal Attraction' and 1992's "Basic Instinct." He costarred in everything from political dramas ("The China Syndrome" with Jane Fonda) to action comedy ("Romancing the Stone" with Kathleen Turner).

Douglas was pleased but philosophical about winning the AFI award.

"It's great once you get past the first moment of calling your doctor for a physical because maybe they know something you don't," he joked. But he added: "It gives you a moment to reflect."

These days Douglas is still boyishly handsome, sporting the same scruffy, if grayer, hair from his "Streets of San Francisco" days.

During a recent visit to Los Angeles—he and his second wife, Catherine Zeta-Jones, and their two young children, Dylan and Carys, live in Bermuda—Douglas was good-humored and charming. For an Oscar winner and scion of Hollywood royalty, he comes across as a regular guy, candid about his life and good fortune.

Douglas spent most of his formative years in Connecticut with his mother, actress Diana Dill, and his stepfather.

"I was very fortunate that my mother remarried a wonderful guy, and Kirk is the first guy to acknowledge that," he says. "I would come and visit him and all that, but I missed some of that craziness."

Douglas says his priorities have changed since marrying Zeta-Jones and the birth of his two young children—he also has a 30-year-old son, actor Cameron Douglas, from his first marriage.

> *I never anticipated I would have a 6-year-old and an 8-year-old. The AFI award makes me think how old I will be when my daughter is 18. ...Catherine is great. The nice thing is you are old enough to know you have a great marriage.*

Though he continues to work—he had a supporting role in this spring's comedy "Ghosts of Girlfriends Past"; starring roles in two upcoming dramas, "Beyond a Reasonable Doubt" and "SolitaryMan"; and is scheduled to reunite with director Oliver Stone on the much-anticipated sequel to "Wall Street"—Douglas is pacing his projects both as an actor and producer. His family comes first now.

"I never anticipated I would have a 6-year-old and an 8-year-old," he said with a smile. "The AFI award makes me think how old I will be when my daughter is 18. ... Catherine is great. The nice thing is you are old enough to know you have a great marriage."

AFI President and Chief Executive Bob Gazzale said Douglas' work speaks directly to his times.

"I found it fascinating when he was giving a master seminar up here on campus for the AFI fellows, he pointed out that he has only done one period piece, 'The Ghost and the Darkness,' " Gazzale said. "He's attracted to stories of the times. In doing that, I think what makes his career rise above the rest is that he always managed to capture the zeitgeist—'Wall Street,' 'Fatal Attraction' and 'China Syndrome.' "

Despite his background—or perhaps because of it—Douglas has remained steadfastly non-Hollywood. He resided in Santa Barbara, a seaside city about 90 miles northwest of Los Angeles, for years before moving to Bermuda, where his mother was born.

"I have a huge family in Bermuda," he said. "It's a great place to raise kids."

And keep them out of the eyes of the paparazzi. "It doesn't exist out there," he said.

"It is totally protected. I don't know how a lot of people do it—the constant confrontation, camera lenses and stuff."

But the Douglas clan plans to divide their time between Bermuda and New York.

"We have been (to New York) in the past, and times have changed," he said. "We are no longer the flavor of the month. The pressure is off."

Though Douglas made his starring film debut 40 years ago in the now-forgotten drama "Hail, Hero!", he really didn't hit his stride as a feature actor until his turn as a dashing adventurer in "Romancing the Stone."

"I think most sons and daughters of successful parents take a little longer to find out who they are," he said. "Basically, I looked young for a long time. And when you have such an icon, with your father, it takes you time to find your own identity, to feel comfortable in your own skin."

When he did start to play darker, morally ambiguous characters in 1987, Douglas really hit his stride—in his Oscar-winning turn as the slick business tycoon Gordon "Greed Is Good" Gekko in "Wall Street," as the happily married man who strays with deadly consequences in "Fatal Attraction," and as an average guy pushed over the edge by urban woes in "Falling Down."

Douglas continued exploring the sexual mores of the time in Paul Verhoeven's "Basic Instinct," in which Douglas' San Francisco cop has an affair with the murderous Sharon Stone, and then in 1994's "Disclosure," in which he found himself the victim of sexual harassment.

"'Fatal' was great high concept, really well-executed," said Douglas. In the case of "Basic Instinct," Douglas was "looking for a slam dance. It was a conservative time, and I was looking for something out there."

Still, he said, "I think what I am most happy about is that as hard as so many actors have worked to create their image, I have been all over the place."

New National Recording Registry entries announced

By NATASHA T. METZLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Twenty-five culturally significant recordings—including a 70-year-old radio broadcast of Marian Anderson's recital at the Lincoln Memorial, Dylan Thomas reading of "A Child's Christmas in Wales" and Winston Churchill's post-World War II speech that coined the term Iron Curtain—will be preserved in a special sound archive.

Every year the Librarian of Congress selects sound recordings to include in the National Recording Registry. This year's batch, being announced Wednesday, also includes signature performances from several artists such as Etta James' "At Last!," The Who's "My Generation" and Mel Brooks and Carl Reiner doing their 2000-year-old man routine.

The recordings are nominated by members of the public and a panel of music, sound and preservation experts, the library's National Recording Preservation Board. The panel also aids the librarian in selecting what recordings to add to the archive.

With the new recordings, the archives will include 275 fragments of sound.

The 2008 additions to the registry are:

■ "No News, or What Killed the Dog," Nat M. Wills (1908)

■ Acoustic Recordings for Victor Records, Jascha Heifetz (1917-1924)

■ "Night Life," Mary Lou Williams (1930)

■ Sounds of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (1935)

■ "Gang Busters" (1935-1957)

■ "Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen," Andrews Sisters (1938)

■ "Que e Que a Bahiana Tem?" Carmen Miranda (1939)

■ NBC Radio coverage of Marian Anderson's recital at the Lincoln Memorial (April 9, 1939)

■ "Tom Dooley," Frank Proffitt (1940)

■ "Uncle Sam Blues," Oran "Hot Lips" Page, accompanied by Eddie Condon's Jazz Band. V-Disc (1944)

■ The Mary Margaret McBride Program, Zora Neale Hurston and Mary Margaret McBride, (Jan. 25, 1943)

■ "Sinews of Peace" (Iron Curtain) Speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Mo., Winston Churchill (March 5, 1946)

■ "The Churkendoose," Ray Bolger (1947)

■ "Boogie Chillen," John Lee Hooker (1948)

■ "A Child's Christmas in Wales," Dylan Thomas (1952)

■ "A Festival of Lessons and Carols as Sung on Christmas Eve in King's College Chapel, Cambridge," King's College Choir; Boris Ord, director (1954)

■ "West Side Story," original cast recording (1957)

■ "Tom Dooley," the Kingston Trio (1958)

■ "Rumble," Link Wray (1958)

■ "The Play of Daniel: A Twelfth-Century Drama," New York Pro Musica under the direction of Noah Greenberg (1958)

■ "At Last!," Etta James (1961)

■ "Rank Stranger," Stanley Brothers (1960)

■ "2000 Years with Carl Reiner and Mel Brooks," Carl Reiner and Mel Brooks (1961)

■ "The Who Sings My Generation," The Who (1966)

■ "He Stopped Loving Her Today," George Jones (1980)

National arts test scores offer a clouded picture

WASHINGTON (AP)—Kids were taking fewer field trips to art museums even before the recession began to gouge school budgets, according to a nationwide survey released Monday.

The survey, conducted with music and art tests of eighth graders, paints a lackluster picture of arts education in this country.

Results came from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, the benchmark of student achievement across the country. Music and art assessments were last given in 1997.

Educators worry the arts could suffer as budget cuts force tough decisions in the years to come.

The economy and the arts "are marching hand in hand downhill," said Eileen Weiser, a classical pianist from Ann Arbor, Mich., and a member of the board that oversees the tests.

Board member David Gordon, the school superintendent in Sacramento County, Calif., said he is cutting back on bus transportation for students to visit the local Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts.

Only about 16 percent of students said they visited an art museum or gallery with at least once with their class, down from 22 percent in 1997.

Even the board is feeling the budget pinch: The report doesn't say how kids are doing in dance and theater, because there wasn't enough money to test in those subjects, and a small number of schools offer them.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan said he worries the arts could get squeezed from the classroom.

Kids "need to have a chance to develop their skills, develop their passions," he told The Associated Press in an interview during a visit Monday to Raleigh, N.C.

"When the curriculum gets narrowed and the arts gets dropped, we do a huge disservice to students," Duncan said.

Streisand writes about her house, pondering memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Barbra Streisand has finished building her dream house and started to think about her life.

The singer, director and actress has reached an agreement with Viking for "A Passion for Design," an illustrated book scheduled for fall 2010 that includes photos of the Malibu, Calif., oceanfront compound she worked on for more than five years, and of other residences, back to her early years in New York.

Streisand

In writing about where she lives (the book is expected to have up to 50,000 words of text), she has been writing about herself "because I'm spurred on by the writing process," Streisand said Wednesday during a brief telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Long reluctant to discuss her private life, the 67-year-old Streisand said she has been working on chapters, in longhand, for a separate book. But she hasn't made up her mind whether she will complete the memoir and publish it.

"I go back and forth," said Streisand, who has received numerous show business honors, including Academy Awards, Grammys and Emmys. "Do I really want to write about my life? Do I really want to relive my life? I'm not sure."

But she is deeply committed to her current project, calling it the culmination of a lifelong passion for American architecture and design. She spoke of visiting landmarks around the country, from the Monticello estate of Thomas Jefferson in Virginia to Edith Wharton's house in Lenox, Mass.—The Mount, which Streisand explored with camera and tape measure.

She sees the book as answering questions she has often asked herself: Why is she so fascinated by furniture, gardens and how homes are constructed? Why was she buying antique clothing as a teenager? Why, in the basement of her new house, did she reproduce a city street? Why did she even write a script about her home?

In celebration of his new life

Jorge Mata Manalili "PA"

MAY 14, 1928 – MAY 16, 2009

was called to his eternal rest Saturday, May 16, 2009 at the age of 81.

In his death, Jorge now joins his:
Beloved wife: +Michiyo Nakanishi Manalili
Daughter: +Bernadette Higa Manalili
Parents: +Ricardo Dungca & +Jacinta Mata Manalili
Parents-in Law: +Haruyo & +Kamejiro Nakanishi
In-Laws: +Takashi & +Shigeru Nakanishi
Brothers/Sisters & In-Laws: +Ricardo Jr. Manalili, +Rosalia Manalili, +Juliana M. & +Alfredo Domingo, +Oscar Siat, +Salvador & Consuelo Manalili

His peaceful spirit will live in the hearts of his:
Children, spouses and their families:
Agnes M. & Beda Malazarte: Gerard & Bambi (Erika & Maxine), Jeremy, & Jeffrey
Marietta M. & Mario Macadaeg: Mario Jr., and Kyle
Robert H. & Maricel Manalili: Jorge Vincent & Michael Vincent
Edward H. Manalili & Elizabeth DLG. Aldan: Merced, Oscar, Jonathan, Evangelina, Edward, & Ankie
Teresa M. & Leo T. Duenas: Bernadette Yurika & Denise Hikari

Sister/Brothers and In-Laws:
Adela Manalili Siat, Fausto & Priscilla Manalili, Oscar & Gerilyn Manalili

Sisters in Law and Brother in Law:
Sayoko, Katsuko, Tokiko, and Fusae Nakanishi, Miyoko and Dr. Yoshitada Mitomi.

He is additionally survived by numerous cousins, nephews, and nieces.

Daily Mass is offered at the Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 a.m. through June 18, together with the

2nd Death Anniversary for our beloved "MA"
Michiyo Evangelina Nakanishi Manalili.

On the final day, June 18, 2009, the Joint Memorial and Anniversary Mass will be celebrated at the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 10:00a.m. Interment will follow at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Si Yuus Maase, Thank you, Maraming Salamat Po, Domo Arigato

From the Family

Joint Death Anniversary

We would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 16th and 5th death anniversary of our beloved father, mother and nephew.

Juan Sablan Cabrera
16th Year

Joaquina Diaz Muna Cabrera
5th Year

Ryan Sablan Cabrera
5th Year

Mass is being offered at San Antonio Church at 6:00pm from June 11, 2009 - June 19, 2009. On the final day, Friday, June 19, dinner will be served immediately after mass at the family's residence in Afetna, San Antonio.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you yan Si yu'us Ma'ase.
From the family

Letterman apologizes again for 'bad' Palin joke

NEW YORK (AP)—David Letterman said his joke about Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's daughter was a lousy joke, no matter how you cut it, and he's sorry. But the late-night host insisted that what's got people really riled is the misconception over which Palin daughter the joke was about.

On Monday's edition of "Late Show," Letterman explained that the risque joke thought by some to have targeted Palin's underage daughter, Willow, was actually referring to 18-year-old daughter Bristol. The name of the daughter wasn't mentioned in the joke, which was part of Letterman's monologue on last Monday's show.

It was "a coarse joke," "a bad joke," Letterman told viewers. "But I never thought it was (about) anybody other than the older daughter, and before the show, I checked to make sure, in fact, that she is of legal age, 18."

AP

In this provided by CBS, actor Denzel Washington, left, tells host David Letterman how easy it was to gain 40 pounds for his role in the movie "The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3" on the set of "The Late Show with David Letterman," Thursday, June 11, 2009.

"The joke, really, in and of itself, can't be defended," he declared.

Even so, the ongoing outcry, led by Palin and her husband, Todd, has centered on Letterman intending to make a joke about the Palins' 14-year-old daughter having sex with a Yankees baseball player.

Todd Palin issued a statement last week that said "any 'jokes' about raping my 14-year-old are despicable."

And Sarah Palin charged Letterman with "sexually perverted comments made by a 62-year-old male celebrity."

On Monday's show, Letterman said, "I'm wondering, 'Well, what can I do to help people understand that I would never make a joke like this?' I've never made jokes like this, as long as we've been on the air, 30 long years."

If that's the misconception—that the joke was aimed at a 14-year-old—he understands why people are upset, he said. "I would be upset myself." Letterman has said from the beginning that he thought the Palin daughter who attended the Yankee game was Bristol.

"I feel that I need to do the right thing here and apologize for having told that joke," he said. "It's not your fault that it was misunderstood, it's my fault that it was misunderstood

He apologized to both daughters, "and also to the Governor and her family and everybody else who was outraged by the joke," he said as the studio audience applauded. "I'm sorry about it, and I'll try to do better in the future."

Brad Pitt, family give $1M to Missouri hospital

In this May 20, 2009 file photo, American actors Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie arrive on the red carpet for the film "Inglourious Basterds", during the 62nd International film festival in Cannes, southern France.

AP

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP)—Brad Pitt and his siblings have given $1 million to help a Missouri hospital open a new pediatric cancer center that will be named for their mother.

Pitt and his siblings' families, Doug and Lisa Pitt and Rob and Julie Neal, gave the money to St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Mo., on Saturday in honor of their mother's passion for children's issues.

The hospital is opening the Jane Pitt Pediatric Cancer Center this summer in the town where Pitt and his siblings grew up. The donation will pay to hire the only pediatric oncologist and hematologist in the southwest Missouri region.

The new center will make St. John's one of six affiliates of St. Jude's Children's Research in Memphis, Tenn., meaning the center will be able to participate in St. Jude's clinic research trials.

Usher's wife 'faithful and loving' during marriage

ATLANTA (AP)—A lawyer who's opposed rapper T.I. and boxer Evander Holyfield in child-support cases is representing R&B singer Usher's wife in their split.

Usher filed for divorce on Friday from Tameka Foster Raymond after less than two years of marriage. The singer whose real name is Usher Raymond IV has two sons with Foster Raymond.

Sports and entertainment family lawyer Randy Kessler said Monday his 38-year-old client was a "faithful wife and loving mother." He declined to comment on the singer's conduct during the marriage.

Usher

The singer wed his former stylist in a glitzy ceremony in August 2007.

Kessler also represented rapper Mack 10 in his divorce from R&B singer T-Boz of TLC.

Captain America rises from the dead for new series

NEW YORK (AP)—Captain America is rising from the grave.

The Marvel Comics superhero returns for the five-part series "Captain America Reborn," beginning July 1.

But Marvel won't disclose how he rises from the dead. Executive Editor Tom Brevoort teases that the character has been "on a Vonnegut-esque metaphysical journey," including some soul-searching about his place in the world.

"He hasn't just been lying in a cold grave for these many months," Brevoort says. "While he seems to be dead, his mind and his spirit" are active elsewhere.

Captain America, the superhero alter ego of Steve Rogers, was apparently shot and killed two years ago on the steps of a courthouse in lower Manhattan. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Rogers' sidekick Bucky Barnes took his place, continuing the series. Brevoort says Barnes will embark on a quest to revive Rogers after tracking down what really happened to him.

"There's definitely a question that must arise, which is `Can there be more than one Captain America?"' says Brevoort. "And if not, even if there can't, what does this mean for Bucky? Where does he fit in the world now?"

According to Brevoort, some Bucky fans are none too pleased.

"Right this second, it's kind of a split," he says. "When Steve was first killed, there was great outcry. But then as Bucky has taken over as Cap, and has sort of struggled to fill those big shoes, a lot of our readers have really taken to him as a character."

AP

In this comic book image released by Marvel Comics, Captain America is shown from, "Captain America Reborn," a five part series from Marvel Comics, available in stores on July 1, 2009.

He says Marvel planned to bring back Rogers in one shape or form and, given the general mood of the country, the timing seemed right to resurrect one of the comic book empire's most patriotic icons.

"It feels like there's a desire for hopefulness," he says. "A desire for heroes and for somebody to show us that we can be our better selves, and to help pull us all up by our bootstraps and get out of the situations that we find ourselves in."

A&E cancels Patrick Swayze drama 'The Beast'

NEW YORK (AP)—"The Beast," a police drama that starred the ailing Patrick Swayze, will not return for a second season, A&E announced Monday. The series, which premiered in January, starred Swayze as Charles Barker, a rogue undercover FBI agent teamed up with rookie Ellis Dove (Travis Fimmel). The series was filmed on location in Chicago.

Reviews for the series were mixed and its audience averaged 1.3 million viewers through the 13 episodes, which concluded their run in April.

But Swayze was unstinting in a rough-and-tumble performance that he maintained while battling pancreatic cancer. His illness had no discernible effect on his gritty portrayal.

A&E President Bob DeBitetto called the performance "an inspiration to us all."

DeBitetto said the series "has truly been a labor of love for everyone," but added that "after careful deliberation we have reluctantly decided not to attempt a second season."

Known for such films as "Ghost" and "Dirty Dancing," the 56-year-old Swayze went public with his diagnosis in 2008.

A memoir by him and Lisa Niemi, his wife of more 30 years, is scheduled for publication in the fall. The book is expected to offer an intimate account of his childhood, career and marriage, as well as his fight against the cancer.

Jessica Alba won't face vandalism charges

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Police have decided against pursuing a criminal vandalism case against Jessica Alba over some posters that were plastered around downtown Oklahoma City.

Police Sgt. Gary Knight said none of the owners of property on which the posters were placed wanted to press charges against Alba, who has apologized.

Police never interviewed the 28-year-old co-star of the "Fantastic Four" movies, "Sin City and "Good Luck Chuck." She is in Oklahoma City shooting a movie, "The Killer Inside Me."

Police found the posters—aimed at raising awareness about sharks' declining numbers—glued to a downtown bridge, utility boxes and a billboard for the United Way charity.

Knight said it is typical not to pursue vandalism charges when property owners don't want to prosecute.

AP

In this May 20, 2009 file photo, Jessica Alba arrives for the opening of the exhibition "Between Eternity and History: 1884-2009" on the occasion of Italian luxury jewelry maker Bulgari's 125th anniversary, in Rome's Palazzo delle Esposizioni palace.

Susan Boyle to sing in Scotland on Monday

LONDON (AP)—Singing sensation Susan Boyle will rejoin the "Britain's Got Talent" live tour on Monday, her spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman said the 48-year-old Scottish singer took a break Sunday, but is scheduled to perform in Glasgow on Monday night.

"She had one rest day, but she will be back on stage tonight," she said, adding that she expected Boyle to take part in the rest of the tour, which runs until early July. The spokeswoman spoke anonymously in line with company policy.

Boyle, whose first appearance on the TV talent show generated had millions of YouTube hits and compliments from around the world, had been hospitalized a few weeks ago for exhaustion after finishing second in the competition.

The church volunteer was due on stage for a matinee and evening show at the Manchester Evening News Arena on Sunday, but did not perform.

She received standing ovations at the tour's previous shows in Birmingham and Sheffield.

LETTERMAN GUESTS AP

The Jonas Brothers arrive for a taping of "The Late Show with David Letterman" in New York, Thursday, June 11, 2009.

Oh, Rob!!! Dick Van Dyke memoir planned

NEW YORK (AP)—Cue the theme music: Dick Van Dyke is writing a memoir.

The star of "The Dick Van Dyke Show" and such films as "Mary Poppins" and "Bye, Bye Birdie" will tell of his long career in a memoir scheduled to be published in the fall of 2010 by Harmony Books, which announced the release Monday.

The 83-year-old Van Dyke is also known for the TV series "Diagnosis: Murder" and for the movies "Night at the Museum" and "Curious George."

The book is currently untitled and financial terms were not disclosed. Harmony Books is an imprint of Random House Inc.

Drea de Matteo engaged to singer Shooter Jennings

NEW YORK (AP)—"Sopranos" star Drea de Matteo and her longtime boyfriend, country singer Shooter Jennings, are engaged.

Amanda Silverman, publicist for de Matteo, says Jennings proposed to the 37-year-old actress at his concert in Utica, N.Y., last Thursday.

Silverman says Jennings took de Matteo by surprise when he called her to the stage to pop the question.

The couple have an 18-month-old daughter, Alabama.

In an update on Twitter, Jennings says: "I'm a lucky man. I'll never forget Utica."

AP

In this Tuesday, March 27, 2007 file photo, Drea de Matteo, left and Shooter Jennings attend the World Premiere of two new episodes of HBO's "The Sopranos" at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

ABC News to air Obama interview on health care

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC News will present a primetime interview with President Barack Obama on health care issues next week.

The special will air June 24 at 10 p.m. Eastern, on two-hour tape delay. Charles Gibson and Diane Sawyer will moderate the White House discussion with a live audience, also taking questions submitted by viewers. After a break for local news, the discussion will continue on "Nightline."

That morning, Sawyer will interview Obama for "Good Morning America." Gibson will anchor that evening's edition of "World News" from the White House Blue Room.

Obama has been carefully doling out access to broadcast networks. NBC had big ratings with its inside peek at the White House. Obama has also given interviews to CBS' "Face the Nation" and "60 Minutes."

Author sued by Salinger submits defense

NEW YORK (AP)—An author being sued by J.D. Salinger for copyright infringement is asking a judge to let his book be published.

Attorneys for Fredrik Colting, who writes under the name John David California, submitted a 33-page "defendants' memorandum" Monday in federal court in Manhattan. The papers say that his novel "60 Years Later" is a legally protected commentary and parody of "The Catcher In the Rye," and not an unauthorized sequel—a "rip off," Salinger has alleged.

Colting's novel tells of a "Mr. C," presumed to be Holden Caulfield as an old man, and of an author named "J.D. Salinger" who contends with his character's enduring fame.

Salinger, 90, has sued Colting, his publisher and his distributor, asking that the book's release—scheduled this summer—be halted.

Man puts his convenience ahead of girlfriend's safety

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My live-in boyfriend, "Travis," and I are having a disagreement. When I get home around 5 p.m. I lock the door behind me, especially when I'm home alone. Travis gets home between 4:40 and 8 p.m.

If I arrive first, he gets upset that he must unlock the door because he often takes his laptop and other things to and from work. I told him I don't feel comfortable leaving my door unlocked when I'm here by myself. I try to get to the door to let him in if I hear him outside, but I'm usually too slow.

Travis believes I am just insecure and think the worst of the world around me. He says I am choosing my irrational feelings over upsetting him. I told him if the alternative was for me to be robbed, raped or murdered, then I would hope his having to use his key every day would be worth it. I know it's unlikely that anything will happen to me, but it only takes one time.

Abby, am I paranoid or can you help me convince Travis of the importance of locking the door, especially when I am home alone?

SAFETY CONSCIOUS IN SAN JOSE, CALIF.

DEAR SAFETY CONSCIOUS: I wish I could count the times I have turned on the evening news and heard someone say after yet another bloody tragedy: "But we live in a safe neighborhood. These kinds of things never happen here!" And how many times have we all heard the police issue a warning to the community to keep your doors and windows locked?

Of course you're not paranoid. You are acting responsibly. Unfortunately, your boyfriend is so self-centered he would rather jeopardize your safety than have his key ready when he gets out of his car. Bottom line: Either he adjusts his attitude or you should seriously consider upgrading the quality of the men in your life.

DEAR ABBY: Five years ago, while still in high school, I had a quick "fling" with a boy I had known since elementary school. It wasn't serious, and we didn't have sex. We mutually agreed that it was simply fun. We haven't seen or talked to each other since.

I have no regrets about it. I was 17, had just been dumped for my baby sister and was having self-esteem issues. He made me feel beautiful and desirable.

A year later I started dating my fiance. We have been together ever since. I love him dearly. We have a solid relationship, and we're very happy.

The problem is I sometimes still think about my fling from high school. I wonder what would have happened if we had dated, or if he still thinks about me. Is this normal for a woman who is getting ready to be married to the only man she has had sex with, and the only person she has dated for more than a few weeks? Or does it say more about my relationship with my fiance than I think it does?

CONFUSED IN OHIO

DEAR CONFUSED: I'm glad you wrote. What you are feeling may be less about your high school "fling" than concern because you have limited experience in the dating world—a boy who dumped you, a high school crush and five years with the person you met next. Obviously, you are having some doubts. It is important to examine them.

If you and your fiance have not had premarital counseling, it is in both your interests to schedule some. You're still young, and if you were ready for marriage you would be going full steam ahead—not looking in the rearview mirror.

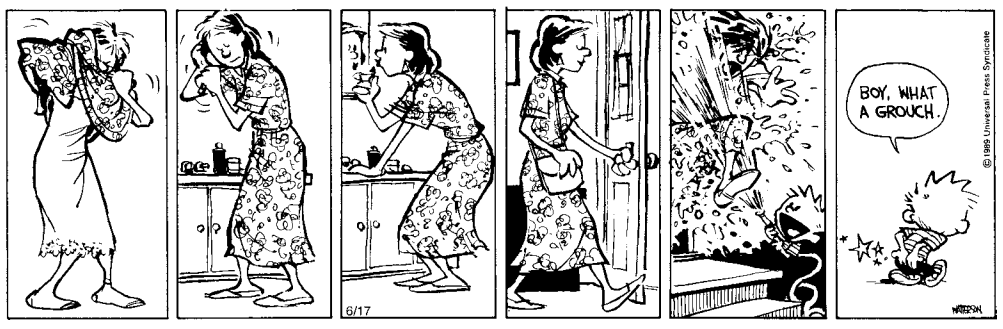
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I PROMISE, NO AGE JOKES THIS YEAR
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
I SAID, I PROMISE, NO AGE JOKES THIS YEAR!!!
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 6-17

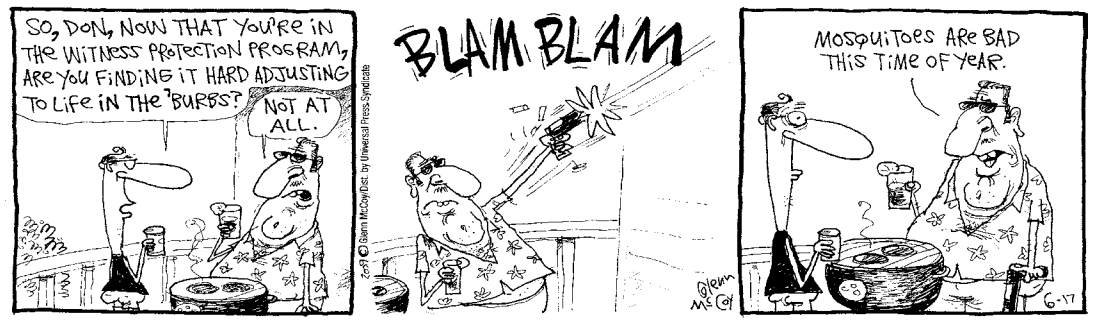
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WOW! THERE'S MORE JUNK DOWN HERE THAN I REALIZED.
I'LL SAY.
AVOID THE NOID!
BOOKS
COSTUMES
HEY, DAD. WHEN'S THE LAST TIME THIS BASEMENT WAS CLEANED UP?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, I GUESS...
WHAT DOES "JOANIE LOVES CHACHI" MEAN?
XMAS DECOR
© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


SO, DON, NOW THAT YOU'RE IN THE WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM, ARE YOU FINDING IT HARD ADJUSTING TO LIFE IN THE 'BURBS?
NOT AT ALL.
BLAM BLAM
MOSQUITOES ARE BAD THIS TIME OF YEAR.
6-17

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Snare
5 Wager
8 Blue material?
12 Apiece
13 Jamie Foxx biopic
14 Christmas tree, often
15 Labyrinth beast
17 Initial stake
18 Military freshman
19 Choice
21 The same, in a bibliography
24 In medias —
25 Cougar
28 Passport endorsement
30 AAA job
33 — Lanka
34 Flavored like some mouthwash
35 Regret
36 B&B
37 "Born Free" lioness
38 Memory unit
39 "Caught ya!"
41 Dandling site
43 Disciplinarian's stick
46 Shoppers' meccas
50 State with conviction
51 Tiny details
54 Examines fully
55 "— Got a Secret"
56 PC symbol
57 Formerly, formerly
58 Caustic solution
59 Criterion

DOWN
1 Office part-timer
2 Bar
3 Dermatologist's case
4 Fear, plus
5 Lingerie item
6 Cologne-label word
7 Novice
8 Sudden onrush
9 Government department
10 "Do — others ..."
11 3-Down sufferer, usually
16 Sen. Kennedy
20 Entreat
22 Mephistophelean doings
23 Capital of Belarus
25 Omega preceder
26 Coffee vessel
27 Mosque towers
29 Ollie's pal
31 Ump's call
32 Itty-bitty
34 Repast
38 Michael Jackson hit
40 "Imitation of Life" author Fannie
42 Outback bird
43 Top choice, for short
44 Always
45 Jannings of silents
47 Grown-up nits
48 Cambodia neighbor
49 Faxed
52 Wall climber
53 Born

Solution time: 21 mins.

L	I	S	P	■	A	D	A	■	S	T	E	M
O	S	H	A	■	G	E	M	■	H	O	P	E
S	O	Y	S	A	U	C	E	■	T	W	I	T
■	■	■	S	H	E	■	T	R	E	N	C	H
S	A	M	B	A	■	P	H	A	T	■	■	■
C	L	O	Y	■	R	O	Y	C	L	A	R	K
A	S	P	■	M	O	P	S	Y	■	W	E	E
B	O	Y	S	C	O	U	T	■	R	O	D	E
■	■	■	C	A	M	P	■	S	A	L	O	N
T	H	R	O	N	E	■	L	O	G	■	■	■
B	I	E	R	■	T	O	Y	S	T	O	R	Y
S	Y	N	C	■	T	W	O	■	A	R	I	A
P	A	T	H	■	E	E	N	■	G	R	O	K

Yesterday's answer 6-17

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18					■	■	19	20				
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24			■	■
25	26	27		■	28		29		■	30	31	32
33			■	34					■	35		
36			■	37				■	38			
■	■	39	40		■	41		42		■	■	■
43	44				45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50				■	51	52	53					
54				■	55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Venus Williams, 29; Greg Kinnear, 46; Joe Piscopo, 58; Barry Manilow, 66

Happy Birthday: Don't spare your own health and well-being for the sake of others. Put things in perspective and choose wisely where and how you spend your time. A new way of life or philosophy will encourage you to take better care of your own interests. Changes should be positive and revolve around home and family. Your numbers are 3, 12, 20, 27, 33, 38, 44

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't give in to anyone trying to bully you. A business deal may cause self-doubt. Hard work will be the only way to get what you want. Your talent should speak for itself. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Let everyone know where you stand and you will face far less opposition. Holding back information or trying to push your rules on someone will backfire. You can enhance your image, looks or personality by trying something new. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: You cannot mess around with your finances if you want to stay afloat. You must be aware of what things will cost before you get involved. Trying to get out of a contract will lead to legal battles. Your intuition won't lead you off-course. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Emotional turmoil can be expected but if you are willing to make a couple of adjustments you will be able to move on. Once you are in the know, you must act quickly. It's your spontaneity that will give you the edge. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: Don't miss out on an interesting job prospect because you are emotionally anxious about a relationship that isn't going according to plan. Concentrate on the people who are willing to help you and don't rely on someone who has let you down in the past. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: You've got some substantial opportunities heading your way. Discuss your plans with someone who may want to join you. Love is on the rise and a chance to do something spectacular will enhance a relationship that means a lot to you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: You may find yourself in a bit of a financial bind if you have let someone talk you into something you really cannot afford. Travel plans may lead to a destination that will help you figure out what to do about a situation you face at home. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: You need a little inspiration and motivation. Take part in an activity that will introduce you to unusual or creative people. Someone you are close to will want you to spend too much to upgrade your living quarters or on a luxury you don't need. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: You can form a new partnership with an old partner. You are likely to have more in common now and can work side-by-side much better than in the past. An unusual turn of events will give you greater understanding. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: You have to take time out for personal reasons. The involvement you have with someone you love will set the stage for the future. Work on something as a couple and you will build a closer relationship. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Follow your intuition and you will stay on course and realize your potential. Your confidence will grow if you present something you have wanted to do for a long time. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: You will get the help you need. A change in your reputation will be of concern but, if you are honest about the past, you will not upset your chances to get ahead now or in the future. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are bright, articulate and a little bit pushy. You are disciplined, hard-working, family-oriented and a good friend.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6	1	7			
		3			8			
	2			4				
2				7				
4				9			3	1
6					5	4		8
	8							7
		2					4	
			7	3	9	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Tuesday's SUDOKU Answer

3	9	5	6	8	4	1	7	2
2	1	4	5	9	7	3	6	8
6	8	7	1	2	3	4	5	9
9	2	8	3	1	5	6	4	7
5	3	6	7	4	2	8	9	1
7	4	1	9	6	8	5	2	3
4	6	3	8	7	9	2	1	5
1	5	9	2	3	6	7	8	4
8	7	2	4	5	1	9	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/16

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SELF-REFLECTION **Solution: 9 letters**

B	(S)	E	X	A	S	N	O	I	S	I	C	E	D	S
E	(O)	K	M	I	N	R	E	A	S	O	N	I	N	G
S	(U)	S	S	E	N	I	P	P	A	H	F	S	N	N
T	(L)	L	S	A	I	B	E	R	T	F	S	O	O	I
N	E	L	A	M	M	F	O	A	E	E	R	S	I	L
O	E	T	A	V	I	R	P	R	N	T	S	S	N	E
I	T	O	O	L	R	U	E	S	S	E	N	B	I	E
T	E	S	T	I	E	N	U	T	N	R	S	E	P	F
A	V	H	M	K	C	O	H	G	E	S	E	H	O	I
T	I	U	A	E	I	G	N	T	H	E	R	A	P	Y
I	T	M	S	C	U	I	T	S	O	L	I	V	W	S
D	I	A	S	O	L	A	N	E	P	F	S	I	O	L
E	S	N	H	L	P	I	N	N	E	R	E	O	M	A
M	O	T	I	V	A	T	I	O	N	G	D	R	E	O
C	P	W	E	I	G	H	T	H	I	N	K	I	N	G

© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 6/17

Behavior, Best, Bias, Consciousness, Decisions, Desires, Differences, Feelings, Goals, Happiness, Honest, Hope, Human, Inner, Life, Makeup, Male, Mask, Meditation, Mirror, Motivation, Opinion, Path, Patterns, Positive, Private, Reasoning, Self, Soul, Strong, Test, Therapy, Thinking, Thoughts, Tool, Value, Weight, Willingness, Women

Yesterday's Answer: Shortage

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities," for $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to **WONDERWORD**, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

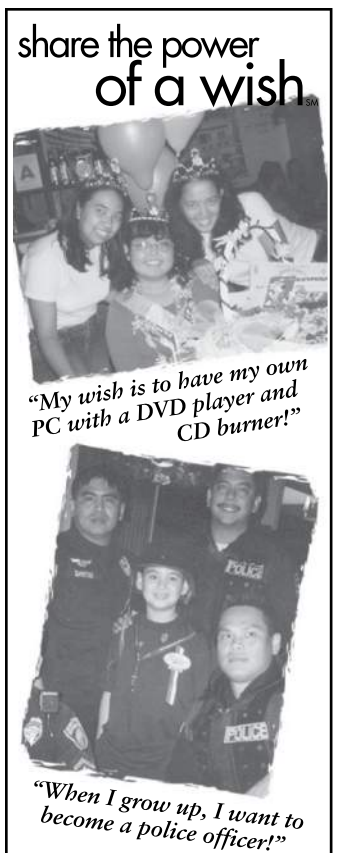
WHATZIT Solution: Free-for-all

FOR SALE
TINIAN STEVEDORE COMPANY
$250,000 OR NEGOTIABLE
CONTACT: GILBERT MACARANAS
433-0130/3246/9255
SERIOUS INQUIRY ONLY

Computer Repair
Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

FOR SALE
PURE-BREED DOBERMAN
3 months old
with shot
Call: 235-4499/286-1615

Dandan Tire Shop
USED TIRE
JOETEN DANDAN
235-7835


share the power of a wish
"My wish is to have my own PC with a DVD player and CD burner!"
"When I grow up, I want to become a police officer!"
15 years of making wishes come true!
For eligible children with life-threatening illnesses
MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH
Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Gratis 4 Complimentary 4

© 2009 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

LAND FOR SALE

1. **Subject Property.** Real property is situated in Capitol Hill, Saipan known as Lot 08 E 17, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 018 E 01, the original of which was recorded on May 01, 1986 as Document No. 86-0878 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan. Said property contains an area of 741 square meters, more or less.

2. **Price.** The property will be sold to the highest bidder.

3. **Condition of Property.** As is.

4. **Warranties and Covenants.** The sale shall be without warranties of any kind, and it is the buyer's responsibility to verify title of the property.

5. **Conduct of Sale.** The sale will be held with reserve, which may or may not be disclosed to the bidders. Furthermore, the undersigned reserves the right to withdraw the property listed for sale at any time before the bid is accepted, or to reject any or all bids for any reason whatsoever. Furthermore, the sale shall be subject to the approval of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

6. **Right of Redemption.** Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4541, the property sold in this sale may be redeemed at any time, within 12 months after the date of sale, and in accordance with 2 CMC § 4542.

7. **Contact Information.** Please submit written offers to Frances C. Quichocho, at the Law Offices of Ramon K. Quichocho, LLC, on the 2nd Floor, Sign Arts Building, San Jose, P.O. Box 505621, Saipan, MP 96950, by no later than May 20, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. For more information, please contact the undersigned at 670.234.8946.

/s/ Ramon K. Quichocho

Charlene Macaranas Sablan
P.O. Box 505128
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 286-1901

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter of the Appointment of Charlene M. Sablan As Guardian of the Estate of Keone Howard Cepeda Macaranas Minor Child by CHARLENE M. SABLAN Petitioner	) FCD Gu) Civil Action) No. 09-0269)) **NOTICE OF**) **HEARING**)))	

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor children by Charlene M. Sablan, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 22nd day of June, 2009 at 1:30 P.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007
Guard files sex harassment suit vs principal. PAGE 3
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAGE 5
There is still hope for nonimmigrant stat
joins Mic
OPINION METER
Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
235- NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Chief blames 'knuckleheads' for Los Angeles disturbance

AP

Los Angeles Police Officers are illuminated by a fire started by Lakers fans celebrating their team's victory in the NBA Finals over the Orlando Magic in downtown Los Angeles, Sunday, June 14, 2009.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Looting and vandalism that broke out in the aftermath of the Los Angeles Lakers' basketball championship won't keep the city from celebrating the team's victory: City officials and the Lakers are planning a victory parade they hope will overshadow unrest the police chief blames on a mob of "knuckleheads."

Police were reviewing security video and media images Monday to identify suspects who caused damage downtown the night before. Police Chief William Bratton said many known gang members were in the crowd.

"These knuckleheads seem to really relish their opportunity in the dark," Bratton said.

A parade was being planned for Wednesday. City officials were meeting Monday afternoon to plan for security along the parade route and a rally to be held at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Lakers spokesman John Black confirmed that the team and the city will kick in about $1 million apiece for the party. Citing the city's financial crisis, unions representing police, traffic officers, street and sanitation workers demanded the Lakers or other private groups pay for it.

Bratton didn't know how much the parade would cost, but he said the team and members of the business community planned to provide financial assistance. The cost will depend on the number of city workers needed.

"Some of what is being planned will be informed by what happened last night," the chief said, referring to Sunday's disturbance.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa told KTLA-TV he has already raised several hundred thousand dollars from private donators and the city "will not put in a million dollars" for the event.

Fans eagerly buying Lakers' gear at the downtown Team LA store on Monday expressed disgust over the disturbance.

"It's uncalled for, it's a shame and it's embarrassing for a lot of us in Los Angeles," said Mark Scoggins, 48.

"It was ridiculous, it was definitely not the right way to celebrate," said Alex Ramirez, 27.

Trouble erupted Sunday night in the area around Staples Center, the Lakers' home court, even though the team won its 15th National Basketball Association championship in Florida, defeating the Orlando Magic 99-86 in Game 5 of the final series.

Street celebrations that began peacefully turned ugly. Fires were set, objects were thrown at police officers, several businesses were looted and buses, police cars and other vehicles were vandalized. Hooligans hurled rocks through the window of one bus abandoned under an overpass.

Eight police officers were injured and 18 people were arrested Sunday night.

Two more people were arrested Monday when neighbors of a looted shoe store alerted authorities to two residents of an adjacent building.

When officers knocked on their door they saw shoe boxes inside the apartment, said police Sgt. Mark Pearce. The man and woman, who were not immediately identified, were booked for investigation of theft.

Inside The Holy Grail shoe store, shelves were empty and glass display cases were shattered. Receipts, paperwork and shoe boxes were scattered around a back storeroom.

Store owner Richard Torres said he lost at least $100,000 worth of vintage sneakers and sports apparel, as well as computers.

More than anything, he was upset because much of the stolen merchandise was burned.

"It would be different if we got burglarized, but they were literally lighting stuff on fire," said Torres, whose business usually does well after games when sports fans stop in.

"For this to happen, it leaves a sour taste," he said.

Torres and store manager Liz Sanchez could not understand why police were unable to prevent the looting. Sanchez said witnesses told her that the store was targeted when one person started shouting "Who wants shoes?" The door was then pushed in.

At a Shell gas station, assistant manager Jorge Osorio said looters took candy and sodas from its convenience store and fled.

"So now we just clean up and move on," he said.

Bratton told KNX radio that the Police Department was adequately prepared with resources staged in different areas of the city.

"It's unfortunate that as we were dispersing those groups, making arrests, that a number of them for a period of time were able to commit the acts of vandalism, the looting ... until we were able to get sufficient resources," he said.

The chief said he was not satisfied with what occurred, but he said the blame should fall on the mob, not the department or the city.

Bratton said he anticipated more arrests as officers review media footage to "identify a lot of these characters, many of whom are gang members and are well known to us."

Sunday's game was not shown on Staples Center's giant exterior TV screen. In 2000, a large crowd that watched the Lakers win the NBA title turned into a mob that torched police cars, a TV van and caused about $750,000 in property damage to businesses.

Economy promises to restrain offseason moves

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The last place Phil Jackson expected to end up when he returned to coach the Los Angeles Lakers was the NBA finals awards podium.

Sure, the Lakers had Kobe Bryant, but that was about it.

"I said that I'd have to think about it a long time because this team is quite a ways from a championship even though Kobe Bryant always gives you a chance to win," Jackson recalled of his discussions with Lakers executive Jeanie Buss, his girlfriend, in 2005.

"So over the next two and a half months I spent some time thinking about it and rekindling my energy to come back and coach, but when I came back I didn't anticipate we'd win. I'd be part of it. I thought maybe I'd build the steps to a winning team, but I didn't think I'd be part of it, and this is much quicker than I thought it would happen."

A good trade can do that.

The last two NBA champions have proved just that, and the next team willing to make a bold move might be the one sipping champagne next June.

But how many teams dare to do it during an uncertain economic climate?

NBA commissioner David Stern said before the finals that revenues could be down as much as 10 percent next season, and the league already has warned its teams that the salary cap is expected to decrease in the next few years.

That means some may have to put All-Star players on the market as a way to cut costs and avoid having to pay the luxury tax, and a team willing to open its wallet to acquire one of them could see a rapid reward.

Boston was coming off one of the worst seasons in its storied history when it traded for Ray Allen and Kevin Garnett in separate deals two summers ago. The Celtics surged to the best record in the NBA, the greatest one-season improvement in league history, and won their 18th championship by beating the Lakers last June.

By then, Los Angeles was clearly on the rise after acquiring Pau Gasol from Memphis at midseason. The Spanish forward averaged 18.6 points in the finals, joining Bryant to give the Lakers the 1-2 punch that every champion needs.

"He's a dominant post-up player, extremely versatile, makes great decisions, and obviously when we got him last year, that really took us to that next step," Bryant said.

Shaquille O'Neal, Amare Stoudemire and Vince Carter were among the players who were believed to be available at the trade deadline, but there were no significant moves. More big-name, big-salary players will likely be put on the market around the draft or later in the summer—Phoenix already has discussed trading O'Neal to Cleveland, according to reports.

The Suns are among the many teams looking to slash. Harder to find are the ones willing to spend.

The Cavaliers' Dan Gilbert will, vowing to do whatever it takes to show LeBron James the commitment to building a champion. Dallas owner Mark Cuban has said he is open to taking on additional salary, but doesn't believe there will be many others, even after it seeing it work out for the Lakers and Celtics.

"I don't. Because if it doesn't pay off, the losses could be huge," he wrote in an e-mail.

Cuban took his risk last year at the trade deadline with the acquisition of Jason Kidd, a move that sent his payroll soaring and will force him to pay about $23 million in luxury tax for this season's second-round exit.

But the NBA is a superstar's league, and they don't come cheap. The Cavaliers, Lakers and Celtics, who had the league's three top records, had three of the five highest payrolls.

Gasol will cost the Lakers nearly $35 million in salary over the next two seasons. So as good as he is, Gasol wasn't sure he would ever get his wish to get out of Memphis because not many teams are willing or able to take on that kind of commitment.

"But the day that I was traded, I couldn't believe it," Gasol said. "It was such a beautiful day for me, and then also, I think the Lakers were pretty happy with it, too."

So money can buy happiness.

Who else is willing to try?

Fielder's slam lifts Brewers over Indians

CLEVELAND (AP)—Prince Fielder hit a go-ahead grand slam in Milwaukee's six-run eighth inning as the Brewers rallied to beat the Cleveland Indians 14-12 in interleague play on Monday.

Fielder finished with a career-high six RBIs for the National League Central-leading Brewers, who won for just the second time in their last eight games. Ryan Braun homered and drove in five runs.

Todd Coffey (2-1) pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings to pick up the win and Trevor Hoffman got three outs for his 16th save.

Victor Martinez, Choo Shin-soo, Mark DeRosa and Travis Hafner homered for Cleveland. Hafner's three-run shot in the sixth gave the Indians a 12-7 lead.

Milwaukee rallied in the eighth, taking advantage when Cleveland relievers Luis Vizcaino and Matt Herges walked the bases loaded. Rafael Perez (1-2) replaced Herges after Braun's infield single cut the Indians' lead to 12-9.

Fielder hit Perez's first pitch into the seats in right-center field for his 16th homer and first career slam. Mat Gamel added an RBI single later in the inning.

Angels 9, Giants 7

At San Francisco, Erick Aybar and Bobby Abreu hit back-to-back homers, and John Lackey ended a four-start winless stretch as the Angels beat San Francisco for their fourth straight victory.

Aybar hit a two-run homer before Abreu connected in the Angels' seven-run fourth. Robb Quinlan singled in two runs, Mike Napoli added an RBI double and Lackey even singled in a run for his first major league hit and RBI.

Juan Rivera and Sean Rodriguez also went deep for Los Angeles.

Pablo Sandoval hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth to go with an earlier solo shot, his first career multi-homer game. Brian Fuentes entered and got pinch-hitter Rich Aurilia on a flyout for his 17th save in 20 chances.

Lackey (2-2) struck out a season-high 10 and won for the first time since May 18 against Seattle.

Giants left-hander Barry Zito (3-7) was done after 3 2-3 innings in his shortest outing of the season. He gave up seven runs and 10 hits.

Favre says he is considering playing again

Broncos sign Lloyd amid reports Marshall wants out

DENVER (AP)—The Broncos signed free-agent receiver Brandon Lloyd on the same day a radio station reported Pro Bowl wideout Brandon Marshall wants to follow Jay Cutler out of Denver.

Lloyd is a seventh-year pro with 15 career touchdown catches who played for Chicago last season. He's also played for Washington and San Francisco.

His signing comes as Adam Schefter, who will join ESPN in August, reported Monday on the Broncos' flagship radio network, KOA in Denver, that Marshall requested a trade during a meeting Friday with team owner Pat Bowlen.

Marshall, who skipped Denver's mandatory minicamp last weekend, walked out of the meeting with several boxes of belongings and didn't speak with reporters as he drove out of the team's parking lot.

A team spokesman said Monday the Broncos were aware of the report of a trade request by Marshall but had no comment. Marshall's agent, Kennard McGuire, didn't return messages from The Associated Press.

If Marshall gets a ticket out of town, that will make two Pro Bowlers who won't be back in '09. Cutler forced a trade to Chicago after a falling out with new coach Josh McDaniels.

The Broncos' other Pro Bowler, center Casey Wiegmann, also has asked for a better contract but he participated in last weekend's minicamp and other offseason work.

Marshall, who was supposed to attend the minicamp even though he's rehabbing from March 31 hip surgery, faces tens of thousands of dollars in fines for going AWOL. He also skipped three weeks of voluntary workouts while rehabbing under the care of his personal doctors back home in Orlando, Fla.

Marshall's issue with the team is primarily about money but he also has cited a lack of trust in Denver's medical staff for not wanting to rehab at team headquarters following what he has called a misdiagnosis of his hip injury last year.

In his most recent posting on his Web site, Marshall wrote: "It's kind of funny now but some of my coaches thought I was getting 'big-headed' and just didn't want to practice but I needed some fine tuning.

"What made last year so weird was that I got two MRIs, one in camp and the second around week six and was told nothing was wrong but come to find out THERE WAS A BIT OF A PROBLEM after all," Marshall added. "LOL. I guess that's part of the business. So after all that, I'm now even more excited about playing this season at 100%. This year I can help my team more and hopefully we can get to the playoffs."

Marshall made $1.5 million in each of his first three seasons after being drafted in the fourth round in 2006. Making the Pro Bowl last year escalated his 2009 pay to $2.2 million.

His desire for a contract befitting his back-to-back 100-catch seasons and stellar play is hampered by all the health and legal issues surrounding the Broncos' enigmatic star.

Will he return from hip surgery the same player who averaged 103 receptions, 1,295 yards and seven TDs each of the last two seasons?

And will he even be available for a full season?

Although the league decided Marshall won't face a suspension over his arrest in Atlanta this spring for fighting with his new fiancee, Marshall faces a trial later this summer on two misdemeanor battery charges stemming from an altercation with his former girlfriend.

The outcome of that case could subject Marshall to punishment from the NFL even though it was part of what triggered his summons to commissioner Roger Goodell's office last summer, when Marshall was suspended for the season opener and fined two paychecks after a series of police-related incidents involving his former girlfriend.

Marshall caught 104 passes for 1,265 yards and six TDs last season. But he dropped 18 on-target passes, something he blamed on the nerve damage in his right arm, which he said he put through a television set while horsing around with his brother a year ago in the offseason.

The Broncos are off until training camp in late July. If Marshall is still on the team, he could become their first camp holdout since Ashlie Lelie in 2006. Lelie forced a trade to Atlanta, which gave Marshall his chance to begin making his mark in Denver.

NEW YORK (AP)—Brett Favre will know in several weeks whether his surgically repaired arm will allow him to come out of retirement again.

The quarterback made his first public comments since retiring from the New York Jets in February in an interview Monday night on "Joe Buck Live." He said the only team he has spoken to is the Minnesota Vikings—and that they would be a perfect fit because he's familiar with their offense.

The three-time NFL MVP said Dr. James Andrews performed the surgery 2 1/2 weeks ago on his throwing arm. Andrews told him it would take 4-5 weeks to know if he'll be able to make all the throws he needs to.

"If it ever gets to the point where it feels like it did before it started hurting, then the biggest question mark is out of the way," Favre said.

Favre said Vikings coach Brad Childress wanted him to attend Minnesota's recent organized team activities, but he declined.

"I figured there would be a media frenzy if I was there," he said. "And there would be a media frenzy if I couldn't play, if we had to say three weeks later, 'You know, his arm's just not up to par. He can't play.'

"So why not have just one media frenzy, and that be later on?"

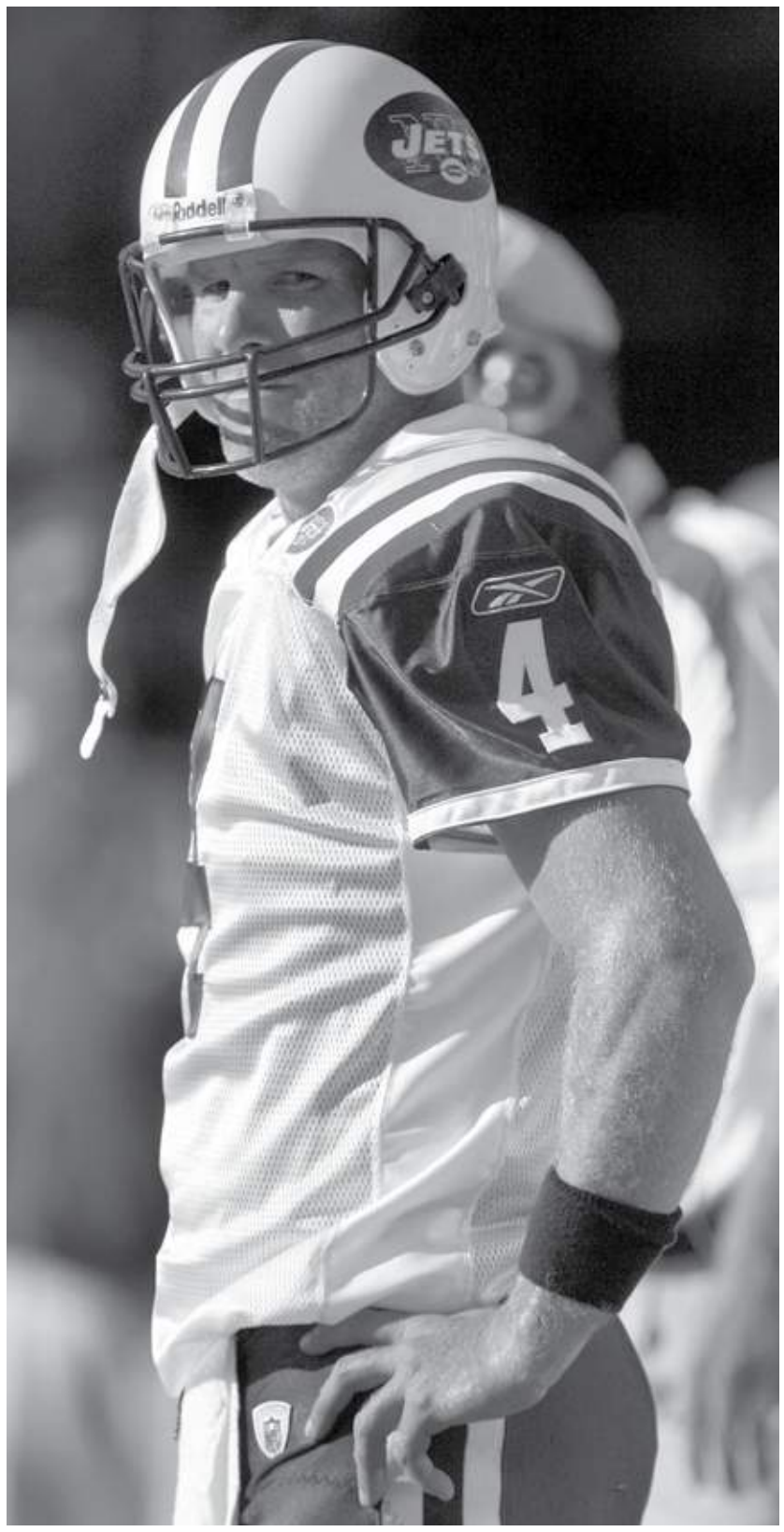
HBO said Favre agreed in April to appear on the show at the request of Buck, the longtime baseball and football announcer. That was before his release from the Jets, which prompted Minnesota's pursuit of the NFL's career leader in touchdown passes.

Asked by Buck if he would play this season, Favre replied, "Um ... " After a pause, he said, "Maybe."

"I know people are tired of it, really," Favre said earlier of the drama that accompanies his annual waffling over retirement. "My intentions are not to—although it's good for you—create controversy."

The Vikings were a presumed suitor last summer when Favre renounced his retirement from the Packers and was told Green Bay was going with Aaron Rodgers at quarterback. But the Packers weren't going to let him go to their NFC North rivals, and after a messy divorce with Green Bay, Favre was shipped to the Jets.

He threw 22 touchdown passes and 22 interceptions last season. The team finished out 1-4 and missed the playoffs, as Favre was bothered by a torn biceps tendon.



AP

In this Oct. 19, 2008, file photo, New York Jets quarterback Brett Favre waits on the sideline before taking the field against the Oakland Raiders in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Oakland, Calif.

The Vikings won their division without him, but have been unsettled at the sport's most important position for the past three-plus years. Quarterback continues to be viewed as one of the team's few weak spots on an otherwise talent-laden roster.

"It makes a lot of sense because the pieces are in place," Favre said.

He said he met with a Vikings trainer Sunday to go over some arm exercises as part of his rehab, but the team has not made plans to evaluate his readiness to play. Favre said his conversations with Vikings officials have been infrequent and limited.

"Nothing other than, 'Are you interested?'" he said. "And vice versa."

NFL BRIEFS

Plaxico Burress gun case delayed until September

NEW YORK (AP)—Former New York Giants wide receiver Plaxico Burress is negotiating with several NFL teams to return to pro football this season after a judge delayed his trial Monday on gun possession charges. Burress made a brief appearance in court Monday, accompanied by his wife and attorney Benjamin Brafman. Judge Felicia Mennin adjourned the case until Sept. 23. Outside court Monday, Brafman said it was "inconceivable" that Burress would face trial on the charge before 2010, said several teams were trying to sign his client, and "physically he's in the best shape of his life. He's ready to play." Burress' agent, Drew Rosenhaus, posted on Twitter Monday that he hopes to have a deal with an NFL team for Burress before training camp starts, and said he's confident the NFL won't have grounds to discipline Burress until after his case is processed in court.

Raiders sign DE Ellis

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—The Oakland Raiders signed defensive end Greg Ellis on Monday night, acquiring a veteran presence as they work to upgrade their defense. The 6-foot-6, 262-pound Ellis, who turns 34 on Aug. 14, was released earlier this month by the Dallas Cowboys—his team for all 11 of his NFL seasons. The sides completed the deal late Monday when he signed the contract, Raiders CEO Amy Trask said. Ellis has also played linebacker but will be a defensive end in the Raiders' 4-3 system. Oakland's defense struggled in the pass rush and to generate sacks last season. Training camp opens next month in nearby Napa. "We are proud and excited that he chose the Raiders," Trask said by phone. "We believe he will be a fine contributor at defensive end." Raiders coach Tom Cable has acknowledged the team might trade former Pro Bowler Derrick Burgess, who is unhappy with his contract, if Oakland gets adequate compensation.

Browns' Stallworth to plead guilty in Fla. DUI

MIAMI (AP)—Cleveland Browns wide receiver Donte' Stallworth has agreed to plead guilty to a DUI manslaughter charge and would do some jail time for a Miami car crash in which a pedestrian was struck and killed, authorities said Monday. Stallworth, 28, is scheduled to appear Tuesday in a Miami courtroom to enter the plea. If accepted by Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Dennis Murphy, Stallworth would serve a short jail sentence for the March 14 crash, followed by lengthy probation and numerous conditions, Terry Chavez, spokeswoman for the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, told The Associated Press. Miami Beach police said Stallworth was drinking at a bar in the swank Fountainebleu hotel. He left to go to a nearby home—he owns three properties in the Miami area—and then headed out in his black 2005 Bentley on MacArthur Causeway, which links the beach to downtown Miami. Prosecutors say Stallworth hit 59-year-old Mario Reyes, a construction crane operator who was rushing to catch a bus after finishing his shift around 7:15 a.m. Stallworth told police he flashed his lights in an attempt to warn Reyes, who was not in a crosswalk when he was struck.

Japanese Aoyama dominates Tinian triathlon

Takeshi Aoyama of Japan held off an earlier charge by compatriot and three-time Tagaman Triathlon legend Hideya Miyazuka to win the 10th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim last June 6 on the beautiful island of Tinian.

Race morning brought a bit of a surprise as rough seas prompted organizers to cancel the swim leg of the race due to safety concerns. Another run leg was substituted for the swim portion. Aoyama went on to post an overall completion time of 2:01:33. The 34-year-old emerged second from the first running leg with a time of 00:07:21, and came in first in both the bike and second run portions of the triathlon with a time of 1:14:43 and 00:39:29, respectively.

Miyazuka placed second and crossed the finish line in 2:13:52. Japan's Yoshihiro Kawamura copped third with a time of 2:15:04. Saipan's pride Florian Braig and Tom Linden rounded out the Top 5, checking in at 2:28:07 and 2:29:52, respectively.

In the women's division, Saipan's Kimiko Hasegawa and Japan's Yoko Mineo finished first and second, completing the race in 2:50:09 and 3:01:05, respectively.

In the team relay, Saipan's Jack Kabriel, with fellow native Florence Antonio, crossed the tape with a total time of 2:24:41, while Tinian natives Joshua Manglona and Janet King tore the tape with a total time of 2:55:39.

Saipan's Ando Shogo crossed the finish line with a total time of 2:36:00, while

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Japan's Takeshi Aoyama zips by Taga Beach during the bike leg of the 10th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue events that took place on the beautiful island of Tinian.

up-and-coming triathletes Quincy Johnson and Andres Buitcago clocked in at 2:46:54 and 2:46:54, respectively.

Awards were given away at a post-race banquet at Taga Beach, where Tinian Mayor's Office CEO William Cing led other officials in congratulating the participants for their efforts on the road and Yoichi Matsumura of the Pacific Development, Inc. and Marianas Visitors Authority director Deborah A. Fleming handed out awards.

The island-style barbeque was hosted by Tinian Mayor's Office, MVA, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Safety, and a number of community volunteers intent on sharing some island hospitality with the competitors.

During the awards party, MVA also presented a plaque of appreciation to president Kiyokazu Onishi of the Kiyokazu Fitness Club Triathlon of Japan for helping to host the annual event for the last 10 years.

"MVA and our tourism partners were very pleased to recognition Mr. Onishi for his active support of sports tourism in the Northern Mariana Islands," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "With his support, the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim has grown to become an exciting signature event of our islands."

Plaques were also presented to athletes that have been participating in the triathlon for 10 consecutive years.

The 10th edition of the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim attracted 86 registrants to Tinian, although most chose not to compete when the swim potion was cancelled. Twenty-two participants joined the race.

The annual triathlon course consists of a 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike ride, and 10-km run, while the reef swim normally has three courses: a 1.5 km, a 3 km, and a 4.5 km. This year a fun run was added, with approximately 15 participants participating.

The Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim was sponsored by MVA, KFC Triathlon Club of Japan, Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, Tinian Delegation Legislative, Mayor's Office Chairman Joe Cruz, Tinian Municipal Council Director Joseph T. San Nicolas, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Americorp, Department of Public Works, Tinian Health Center, other government departments and agencies, and the people of Tinian. ***(PR)***

CNMI

From Page 28

Swami, 6-4, 6-0, and Jeero Basa, also of Guam, 6-0, 6-2.

Nathan Nutting split his Day 2 matches, winning against Joon Woo Park in the first game, 6-3, 6-4, before bowing to tournament top seed Michael Tan of Guam in his second assignment of the day, 0-6, 1-6.

In the other 18-and-under game, Fernandez topped teammate Theecel Minor, 6-2, 6-2, to move into the quarterfinals.

The boys and girls' 14-and-under division and the girls' 18-and-under will start their quarterfinal round today, while the boys' 18-and-under age group will play the remaining games in the elimination round this morning.

Decena will play his last game in the elimination round against Tan and this could be a preview of the boys' 18-and-under finals.

"Benjie will be facing his toughest test in the tournament today and I hope he makes the grade," CNMI coach Jeff Race said.

"Overall, we are still on target. I am still confident we can get seven slots and I am also preparing to have my head shaved. Who knows? Anything can still happen, we may still get eight spots," he added.

The Top 3 placers in each age group will get slots on the North Pacific Team that will participate in the POJC in Fiji in August. However, only two players from the same nation can make the team. Kiribati players were automatically given four seats on the team, as it is too expensive for them to go to Guam and compete in the qualifier.

ADA

From Page 28

gym a facelift.

The Ada gym will be the main venue for the Oceania caging, which will run from June 21 to 28. The Marianas High School Gymnasium is the other venue.

FIBA Oceania special projects manager Judy Smith, who was the first official from the zone to arrive on Saipan, was pleased with what she saw at the Ada Gym yesterday.

"Last week when I first visited the gym, I did not see what I was expecting to see. However, these hard working volunteers stepped up in the last few days and did a great job. It's a lot different gym now. We will just put other stuff on Thursday and Friday and we will be ready for the opening on Sunday," Smith said.

The two portable basketball backstops and backboards donated by FIBA and Mondo were put in place of the old backboards last Monday. The backstops and backboards, which according to Smith cost around $30,000, will stay on Saipan even after the tournament.

The playing court continues to undergo a major cleanup, while lines were already changed based on new FIBA specification. The bleachers had been repainted and fans were installed, while restrooms and locker rooms had been refurbished

"We will be finishing the wirings for the table officials in a day or two," Lizama said.

Lizama is asking the public's cooperation in maintaining the gym once the tournament has started and even after Saipan's hosting of the Oceania caging.

The FIBA Oceania tournament will have the CNMI Men's and Women's Nationals battling teams from New Caledonia, Guam, Australia, and New Zealand.

Guam players will be the first to arrive on Saipan, as they are scheduled to touch down at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport this Friday. The rest of the participating teams will arrive Saturday morning.

RANGERS

From Page 28

The Falcons dominated Game 1, controlling the match early and halting the Rangers' rally in the last two innings.

Game 2 was a close game with the Falcons hanging on to a precarious 9-8 lead after eight innings, before Sillil made the crucial hit.

Shane Yamada reached home plate at the top of the ninth inning on a Falcons throwing error to tie the game, 9-all. Celis walked then advanced to second on Ben Taisacan's single. Two more Rangers errors moved Celis to third and Taisacan to second and the two made it home on Sillil's single.

The Rangers preserved the win after shutting out the Falcons at the bottom of the last inning.

The winner of Friday's Game 3 will face the victor of the Rock Steady-D-9ers semis tiff in a best-of-five title series.

Rock Steady drew first blood in their own semis affair against D-9ers, notching a 16-10 win in the rained-soaked Game 1 last Friday.

Rock Steady had the lead at the bottom of the sixth when rain stopped the game. After 30 minutes, the field was unplayable thus organizers declared the defending champion winner of Game 1.

Tournament ground rules allow only rain-halted games played in under five innings to be rescheduled. After five innings, a game is considered a regular match and if after 30 minutes the rain hasn't stop or the field is still unplayable, the leading team wins the game.

It was tough luck for the D-9ers, who were rallying at the bottom of the seventh inning. After trailing at 4-13, D-9ers tallied six runs in the seventh inning to move within six before rain decided the team's fate.

Rock Steady will aim for a semis series sweep and a return trip to the finals when it faces D-9ers in Game 2 tonight.

PTC

From Page 28

in PTC's 74-88 drubbing in the hands of eventual first round co-leader G4S.

He then concluded play in the opening round by firing a season-high 32 and 24 points in back-to-back losses to host Shirley's (99-100) and co-leader Advance X-Terminators (67-75).

Advance whippet-quick guard Mike Olaitaman, G4S bull-strong forward Junar Guiab, Advance high-flying forward Rocyl Ritual, and Shirley's sharp-shooting guard Jersh Angeles made up the rest of the Top 5 in scoring.

Olaitaman averaged 25.6 points per game after burning the nets with 128 points. He scored 33 points in Advance's 96-92 debut win over Shirley's on May 18.

The high-leaping mainstay of the Ol'Aces cage team then scored 15 and 22 points as Advance split its next two games—a 74-71 win over MBI on May 25 and a 96-92 loss against Fiesta.

Olaitaman helped Advance bounce back from the loss big time when he poured in a team-high 31 points in his team's 91-63 surprise win over G4S last May 29. Three days later on June 1, he pumped in 21 points as Advance joined G4S in the top spot with a 75-67 triumph over PTC.

Guiab, meanwhile, averaged 24.2 points per game after totaling 121 points in five outings in the first round.

The UFO cage league veteran debuted with 15 points as G4S steamrolled past Fiesta, 84-60, in the league's opener last May 17.

He followed that up with a 20-point performance in G4S' 61-42 victory over MBI last May 20. Guiab then fired 24 and 26 points, respectively, as the team bulldozed Shirley's (87-78 last May 22) and PTC (88-74 last May 27).

Guiab and company, however, were denied a sweep of the first round when Advance hijacked them with a 63-91 upset last May 22, a game where Guiab was only able to contribute 18 markers.

Ritual proved to be an able Kato to Olaitman's Green Hornet when he averaged 21.2 points per game for Advance in the strength of his 106 points.

The swingman shot 17 points in Advance's come-from-behind win over Shirley's on May 18. He followed that up with games of 25 in 21 points as Advance split its games against Fiesta and MBI.

Ritual then fired 18 points in their aforementioned victory over G4S before scoring 15 in the team's final game in the first round, an eight-point win over PTC.

Angeles, for his part, is showing he is as comfortable in basketball high-tops as he is in soccer cleats, averaging 17.8 points after totaling 89 points for Shirley's in the first round.

He fired 18 points in Shirley's 92-96 heartbreaking loss to Advance last May 18; 16 points in his team's 67-72 loss to Fiesta on May 20; another 16 points in their 87-78 setback to G4S on May 22; 21 points in Shirley's 100-99 victory over PTC last May 29; and 18 points in their 63-77 defeat to MBI last June 1.

Making up the rest of the Top 10 scorers in the first round of the Shirley's cagefest were: Shirley's Fradel Sedillo (17.4 ppg.); MBI's George Barbo (17 ppg.); Fiesta's Elmer Esdrelon (16.8 ppg.); PTC's Jojo Garon (16.6 ppg.); and Advance's Rodel Apostol (16.2 ppg.).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	38	25	.603	—
New York	36	27	.571	2
Tampa Bay	34	31	.523	5
Toronto	34	31	.523	5
Baltimore	27	36	.429	11

Central Division

Detroit	34	29	.540	—
Minnesota	32	33	.492	3
Chicago	30	34	.469	4 1/2
Kansas City	28	34	.452	5 1/2
Cleveland	29	37	.439	6 1/2

West Division

Texas	35	27	.565	—
Los Angeles	33	29	.532	2
Seattle	30	33	.476	5 1/2
Oakland	27	35	.435	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	36	25	.590	—
New York	32	29	.525	4
Florida	32	33	.492	6
Atlanta	30	32	.484	6 1/2
Washington	16	45	.262	20

Central Division

Milwaukee	35	29	.547	—
St. Louis	34	30	.531	1
Cincinnati	31	31	.500	3
Chicago	30	30	.500	3
Pittsburgh	30	33	.476	4 1/2
Houston	29	32	.475	4 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	42	22	.656	—
San Francisco	34	29	.540	7 1/2
Colorado	31	32	.492	10 1/2
San Diego	28	34	.452	13
Arizona	27	37	.422	15

Yesterday's Games

Milwaukee 14, Cleveland 12
L.A. Angels 9, San Francisco 7

By The Associated Press

Tsunami Saipan 2nd Anniversary and Recognition Ceremony

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan swimmers who recorded more than 90 percent attendance in practice during the 2008-2009 season pose for a group photo at the awards ceremony at Aqua Resorts Club last June 6.

The Top 3 winners in highest attendance percentage, first placer Kensuke Kimura, second left, runner-up Kosei Toda, and third placer, Ryosei Toda. Joining them is Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan president Stan Good.

Rezne Wong, who is leaving club this year to study in Hawaii, thanks his Tsunami Saipan family after receiving a farewell gift.

Tsunami Saipan's most outstanding swimmer for 2008-2009 season Kai Staal is all smiles after he receives his award.

Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, center, and wife Yuko, receive a gift from club members for volunteering their services to the club. Handing award the gift was Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan president Stan Good, left.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers who made records in the 2008-2009 season receive certificates. Front row from left, Hiroto Yanai, Ryosei Toda, and Kaito Yanai. Back row from left, Kensuke Kimura, Kai Staal, Shin Kimura, and Rezne Wong.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers make one final cheer for Rezne Wong.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers and coaches pose for a group photo after the awards ceremony.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers and guests at the awards ceremony watch the slide show presentation from Shin Kimura, who highlights the humble beginnings of the club and the notable and funny moments of the 2008-2009 season.

Chief blames 'knuckleheads' for Los Angeles disturbance

Looting and vandalism that broke out in the aftermath of the Los Angeles Lakers' basketball championship won't keep the city from celebrating the team's victory. 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Japanese Aoyama dominates Tinian triathlon

Takeshi Aoyama of Japan held off an earlier charge by compatriot and three-time Tagaman Triathlon legend Hideya Miyazuka to win the 10th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim last June 6 on the beautiful island of Tinian. 26

CNMI jr. netters still on target

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Tennis Team remained on track in its bid to gain seven tickets to the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships after Day 2 of the 2009 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament yesterday at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center.

This after 10 CNMI junior netters advanced to the quarterfinals of the qualifier. The list includes Rafael Jones, Christian Miller, Chris Cajigan, Jake Lee, Melody Johnson, Ilia Corella, and Negahr Rastguiy in the 14-and-under age group and Benjie Decena, Woo Suk Chang, and Jodel Fernandez in the girls' 18-and-under.

Rastguiy, who is an NPQ first-timer, continued her surprising performance in Guam, as she went undefeated in three games and topped Pool C. The diminutive CNMI bet completed her sweep of the play after pulling off a 6-3, 6-4 upset over Andrea Lai of Guam.

Also ruling her pool was Johnson, who had a 3-0 slate in Pool A after downing Palau's Ayana Rengiil, 6-0, 6-2.

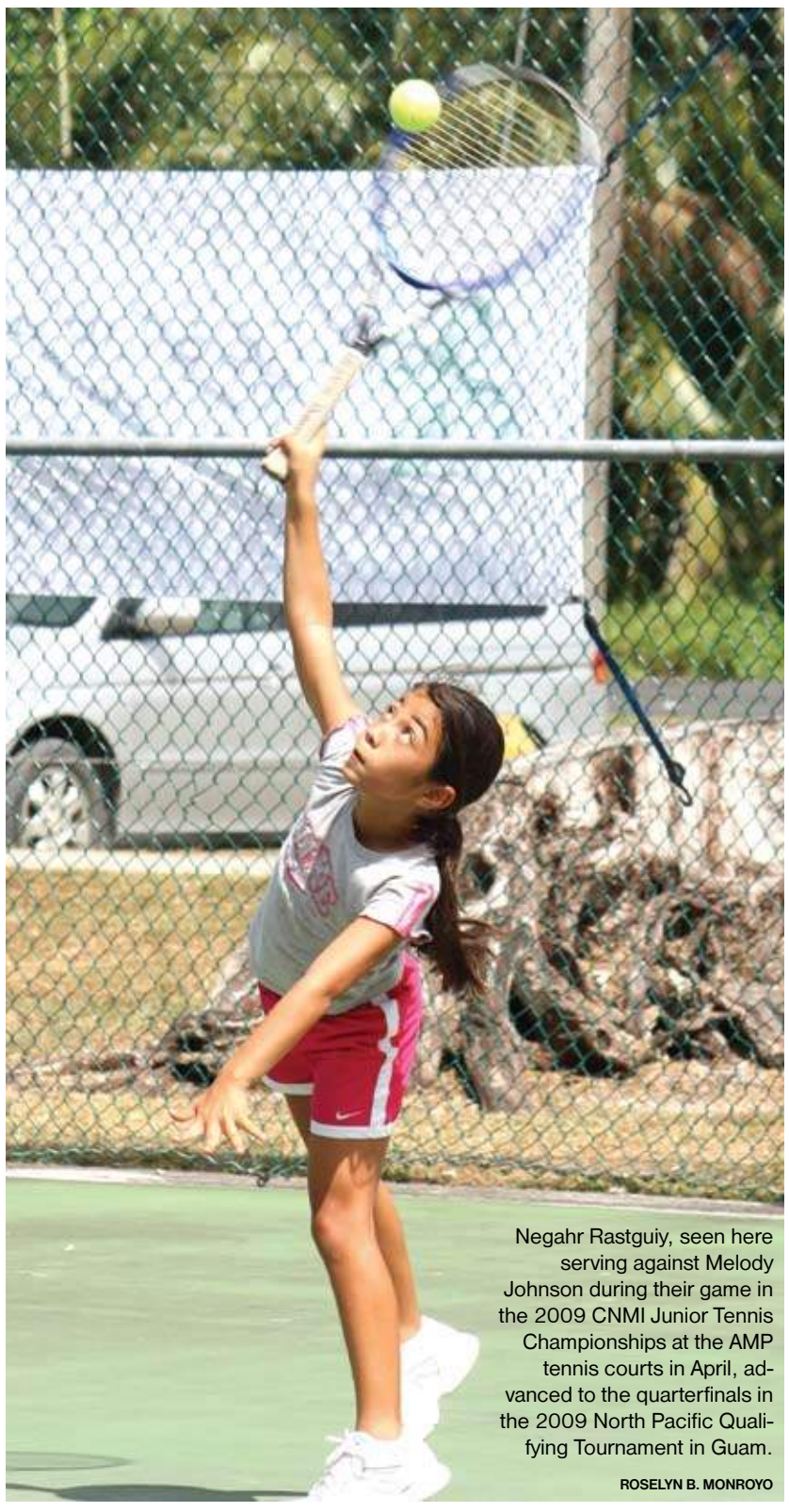
Corella joined Johnson and Rastguiy in the girls' 14-and-under quarterfinals after beating teammate Jeane Bracken, 7-5, 7-5.

In the boys' 14-and-under age group, Jones finished on top of his pool with a 3-0 record after thumping Carey Rush of the Federated States of Micronesia, 6-1, 6-2.

Cajigan and Miller also won their Day 2 games with the former outclassing Guam's Joshua Cepeda, 6-2, 6-4, and the latter defeating Palau's Kaito Fiji, 6-2, 6-1.

In the boys' 18-and-under, Decena had another two-game sweep on Day 2 after thwarting a Guam player named

See CNMI on Page 26



Negahr Rastguiy, seen here serving against Melody Johnson during their game in the 2009 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships at the AMP tennis courts in April, advanced to the quarterfinals in the 2009 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ada Gym makeover nearly complete

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Repairs and improvements at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium are almost complete and the main basketball facility in the CNMI will be ready in time for the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament.

"It's 90 percent complete. We will have the gym ready by Thursday and organizers can put the finishing touches by Friday," Division of Sports and Recreation director Joe Lizama said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Staff from DSR and the Department of Public Works and other volunteers have been working hard in the past weeks to give the Ada

See ADA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium sports a new look after the addition of two portable basketball backstops and backboards donated by FIBA and Mondo.

PTC's Lansang paces scoring race

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Pacific Trading Co. swingman Erlan Lansang led the scoring race after the first round of the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League.

Lansang torched the nets at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan with 134 points in five games in the opening round, which was good for a 26.8 points per game average.

He debuted with a solid 24 points in his team's 72-75 loss to Micronesian Brokers, Inc. during the league's opening last May 17.

The following week on May 25, Lansang scored 29 points and presided over PTC's rally from 20 points down to upset Fiesta Resort and Spa in double overtime, 96-89.

Two days later on May 27, Lansang fired his first round low of 23 points

See PTC on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Pacific Trading Co. swingman Erlan Lansang, seen here being defended by Shirley's Angel Catungal, topped the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League scoring race with an average of 26.8 points per game.

Rangers keep finals bid alive

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Rangers' Craig Tenorio, left, and Benwachi Taisacan exchange high fives in Game 1 of their title series over the Tanapag Falcons in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The Rangers lost, but won Game 2 to force a rubber match.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pennant champions Ford Rangers remained in contention for a finals seat in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League after beating the Tanapag Falcons in Game 2 of their best-of-three title series Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Centerfielder Clifton Sillil blasted a two-run single at the top of the ninth inning to lift the Rangers to an 11-9 win in Game 2 to force a deciding Game 3 on Friday.

The Falcons stunned the Rangers in their semis series opener last week, pulling off a 12-7 upset in Game 1.

See RANGERS on Page 26